



THE CHILDREN'S

YEAR-BOOK



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Selections for Every Day in the Year

CHOSEN AND ARRANGED

BY EDITH EMERSON FORBES



BOSTON
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1894

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P R E F A C E.

THIS book has been compiled for the use of children from seven to fifteen years old, in the hope that it may help them to form the habit of reading each day at least a few sentences from the Bible, or some religious book. To teach this habit, and to instil a feeling that the day is not quite sweet and perfect without looking upward and inward, seems to be one way of cultivating the spirit of *reverence* which is usually found in young children, and can only be retained by cherishing ; and the lack of it is the saddest characteristic of the young people of this generation.

Reverence and faith, — without these, however admirable a character may be, it has not the grace of gladness, and the “beauty of holiness.”

“This little reading is the salt of the day,” a mother said, in giving her child a book of Selections for this purpose.

It is suggested that the mother should at first read with her children, at bedtime, the selection, and explain and talk it over, and if possible apply it to the events of the day at home and school, and that when she is unable to be with them she should encourage them to read it alone and think it over, and to find the meaning

of the lesson and apply it. Objection has been made that the children would seldom be in the right mood, and the reading would generally be a mere form. But even if it were, there might be in the course of the year ten times when the lesson interested or comforted the child, or gave an answer to some problem he had to meet. If so, the days when he reads as a form would not have been lost, since they guided him where to look in his need, and he would not forget that; and if a child does not take such reading as a duty at a set time, he is not likely to take any religious reading by himself; and when the habit is formed, it is one which cannot harm, but may be a source of comfort, help, and strength. If the older children sometimes find a hymn that is too young for them, they will find there is usually a sentence, or at least a text, which is not childish, for their lesson on the same day. A few of Mrs. Barbauld's prose hymns are used; children almost always enjoy these if they are read to them at bed-time, but they do not usually like to read them to themselves.

My thanks are due to Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin, and Company, and Messrs. Roberts Brothers, for the permission to use selections from books published by them, and to Miss L. Freeman Clark, Mr. O. B. Frothingham, Mr. T. W. Higginson, and other friends, who have kindly consented to my use of passages from their works.

E. E. F.

CHILDREN'S YEAR-BOOK.

January 1.

ANOTHER year with all its hopes and fears
Has sunk into the deep abyss of time ;
And on the threshold of the new we stand,
Like travellers to a new and distant clime.

Hope, smiling, beckons, bidding us take courage ;
Faith points to heaven, where God and angels dwell,
Assuring us that all our untried future
Is known to Him who "doeth all things well."

Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart,
all ye that hope in the Lord. — *Ps.* xxvii. 14.

WHEN our Captain bids us go,
'T is not ours to murmur, "No."
He that gives the sword and shield,
Chooses too the battle-field
On which we are to fight the foe.

January 2.

WHILE the year is young and its songs unsung,
I would beg a blessing for thee, —
May the skies be blue, may the friends be true,
And the world be better for thee.

When the year is sped, when its words are said,
And its songs and its joys are done,
Be thy heart content with a year well spent,
Nor wish one of its deeds undone.

His truth shall be thy shield and buckler.

Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor
for the arrow that flieth by day.

Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge,
even the Most High, thy habitation; there shall no evil
befall thee. — *Ps. xci. 4, 5, 9, 10.*

I PRAY the prayer of Plato old:
God make thee beautiful within,
And let thine eyes the good behold
In everything save sin!

WHITTIER.

January 3.

A MINUTE.

A MINUTE, how soon it has flown!
And yet how important it is!
God calls every moment his own,
For all our existence is his;
And though we may waste them in folly and play,
He notices each that we squander away.

Why should we a minute despise
Because it so quickly is o'er?
We know that it rapidly flies,
And therefore should prize it the more.
Another, indeed, may appear in its stead,
But those precious moments forever are fled.

'T is easy to squander our years
In idleness, folly, and strife;
But oh! no repentance or tears
Can bring back one moment of life.
But time, if well spent, and improved as it goes,
Will render life pleasant, and peaceful its close.

And when all the minutes are past,
Which God for our portion has given,
We shall certainly welcome the last,
If it safely conduct us to heaven.
The value of time, then, may all of us see,
Not knowing how near our last minute may be.

JANE TAYLOR.

BLESSED is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. — *James i. 12.*

January 4.

FORENOON and afternoon and night, — forenoon,
And afternoon, and night, — forenoon, and — what?
The empty song repeats itself. No more?
Yea, that is Life: make this forenoon sublime,
This afternoon a psalm, this night a prayer,
And Time is conquered, and thy crown is won.

E. R. SILL.

I THE Lord will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee. — *Isaiah xli. 13.*

REFLECT that life, like every other blessing
Derives its value from its use alone.

DR. JOHNSON.

LIFE is more solemn than death; for we are not responsible for dying; we are responsible for living. Every moment, as it goes by, judges us. Not an idle word, not an unkind word that we say, not a moment of our life, but gives an account of itself in the imperishable record of the past.

JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE.

January 5.

GOD that madest earth and heaven,
 Darkness and light;
 Who the day for toil hast given,
 For rest the night, —
 May thine angel-guards defend us,
 Slumber sweet thy mercy send us,
 Holy dreams and hopes attend us,
 This livelong night.

HEBER.

HE shall give his angels charge over thee to keep thee
 in all thy ways. — *Ps. xci. 11.*

THE Lord bless thee and keep thee : the Lord make
 his face shine upon thee : the Lord lift up his counte-
 nance upon thee, and give thee peace. — *Numbers vi.*
 24, 25, 26.



January 6.

MY voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord ;
 in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee,
 and will look up. — *Ps. v. 3.*

THROUGH all the busy daylight, through all the quiet night,
 Whether the stars are in the sky or the sun is shining bright,
 In the nursery, in the parlor, in the street, or on the stair,
 Though I may seem to be alone, yet God is always there.

He knows each word I mean to speak before the word is
 spoken ;

He knows the thoughts within my heart, although I give no
 token :

When I am naughty, then I grieve my Heavenly Father's
 love ;

And every time I really try, he helps me from above.

I have kind and tender parents, I have many loving friends;
But none love me as God loves me; and all that's good he
sends.

I will walk as God shall lead me, while the sun is in the sky;
And lay me down and sleep in peace beneath his watchful
eye.

Whatever I may do,
Wherever I may be,
Although I see him not,
Yet God sees me.

MARY E. PARKMAN.

January 7.

A FATHER'S TALK WITH HIS CHILDREN ON THE SUBJECT OF THE TEXT THEY WERE CHOOSING TO HELP THEM IN THE NEW YEAR.

LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle; who shall rest on thy holy hill? Even he that leadeth an uncorrupt life, and doeth the thing which is right, and speaketh the truth from his heart. — Ps. xv. 1, 2.

“You know the difference between saying, ‘We are all sinners,’ and confessing, ‘I have sinned and done this evil before Thee.’ It is very easy to say, ‘I have a sinful heart,’ — we have all sinful hearts, — but difficult to acknowledge you have really done wrong when you are told of a sin. People’s pride is not offended when they think they are no worse than others, and nothing particular can be laid to their charge, and thus they do not know what feeling sin means. But if you can make an individual really sensible that he has broken one law of God in any instance you can point out to him, you do more to make him feel his need of a Saviour than by a hundred times reminding him that he is born in sin. Do you see this?”

"Yes, when any one tells me I am generally naughty I feel no worse than other boys ; but when you show me plainly that I have done wrong in some one instance myself, I am ashamed and sorry.

"Just as I did when Mrs. Couran told you I was 'so rude and mischievous.' I did n't care ; but when I broke John Williams' window by throwing stones, I was very sorry, really, because I felt, when you talked to me, that I had really done a very wrong thing myself."

"Well, then, in the same way we may hear many an injunction to run steadily, to be patient, to overcome, and only think it very beautiful, like the Jews who listened to Ezekiel's words from God, and thought them like a sweet song, very pleasant to listen to, but not worth remembering after the sound had passed away, — unless you remember some particular things in which you are to be steady, patient, and to overcome. Now I think some of you can tell me a great deal about races and battles, and 'looking to Jesus,' but who thinks of taking the battle and the race into lessons, and work, and play. Who thinks the thing that is right for me to do is to help my mother, and to be always thinking of helping her ; the thing that is right for me is, to learn diligently that lesson which is so hard for me ; to refrain from doing that spiteful trick, or from saying that unkind word, or from striking that cruel blow ; to be careful to have my hands clean at dinner ; to be punctual at every meal ; to get up when I am called in the morning ; not to speak improperly to my mother or father ? Now I think this Psalm mentions two or three right things by name, one duty I much wish you all to remember. 'Speaking the truth from the heart,' and speaking the truth in the heart ; that is, feeling so sincere and honest that you will act truth as well as speak it, never make false excuses, nor seem to be what you are not when alone with God. I should much like to take this text, because I am sure

you don't think enough of that. I come into a room unexpectedly; a little girl has the poker; directly she hears the door open, down it goes, and she hopes 'papa did n't see.' Perhaps papa was too busy to speak, and goes away, forgetting at the time it was a very little girl who was stirring the fire; but God saw it, and this action showed that the little girl did not speak the truth in her heart. We know the rest; and many a time the forbidden sofa has been trodden on by dirty boots, and the forbidden books used by unpractised hands; the hard lesson shirked; and all the time the actors in these scenes did not think they were seen; and sometimes even got credit for being good children. This year, try to speak the truth in and from your hearts in every little thing, and then you will speak it from your lives. 'Be, rather than seem to be.' And this cannot be without remembering that you must seek for constant help; for 'Without Him you can do nothing,' though 'through Him you can do all things.' You must pray about that special sin you want to conquer, and that particular duty you want to do. Don't be afraid that anything is too little to bring to God."

SAXELFORD, BY E. J. MAY.

January 8.

O BLEST Creator of the light,
Who dost the dawn from darkness bring,
And, framing nature's depth and height,
Didst with the new-born light begin;

Who gently blending eve with morn,
And morn with eve, didst call them day, —
Thick flows the flood of darkness down:
Oh, hear us as we sing and pray!

Teach us to knock at heaven's high door ;
Teach us the prize of life to win ;
Teach us all evil to abhor,
And purify ourselves within.

BREVIARY.

HAVING cast ourselves on the mercy and protection of the Almighty, we shall go forth with new confidence to the labors and duties which he imposes. Our early prayer will help to shed an odor of piety through the whole life ; God, having first occupied, will more easily recur to our mind. Our first step will be in the right path, and we may hope a happy issue.

CHANNING.



January 9.

THE STORY OF THE GIVING THE COMMANDMENTS.

IN the third month, when the children of Israel were gone forth out of the land of Egypt, the same day came they into the wilderness of Sinai, and had pitched in the wilderness : and there Israel camped before the mount.

And Moses went up unto God and the Lord called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel : Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you upon eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself. Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people : for all the earth is mine.

And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words which the Lord commanded him.

And all the people answered together, and said, All that the Lord hath spoken we will do.

And Moses returned the words of the people unto the Lord.

And the Lord said unto Moses, Lo, I come unto thee in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with thee, and believe thee for ever.

And it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled.

And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God; and they stood at the nether part of the mount.

And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the Lord descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly. And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice. — *Exodus* xix. 1-9, 16-19.

January 10.

THE FIRST COMMANDMENT.

AND God spake all these words, saying, I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

Thou shalt have no other Gods before me. — *Exodus* xx. 1-3.

LORD, thou 'rt good and kind to me ;
Every blessing comes from thee.
Oh, may I, through all my days,
Raise to thee my songs of praise.
Heavenly Father, give me grace
Evermore to seek thy face.

WE have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love ; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

And this commandment have we from him, that he who loveth God love his brother also. — 1 *John* iv. 16-21.



January II.

THE SECOND COMMANDMENT.

THOU shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them : for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me ;

And showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments. — *Exodus* xx. 4-6.

WE think that we are not likely to make graven images and bow down to them and serve them, but, I fear, if we look into our hearts we shall find them full of idols. Consider ; on what do you bestow the most thought and service ; what are you most affectionate and earnest in ? for is not that your god ? Is there not something beside

the true God, deep in the hearts of most of us? And though in particulars men may differ, is there not one in which all men agree, the great idol himself? We want to please ourselves, to have ourselves esteemed and honored, and would make everything serve this end. But is not that God's right and due? Set yourselves to know and love and worship God; labor that there may be less of the world, less of yourselves, and more of God in your hearts. *He demands all.* It is in this way that we become more like Him, — more noble, more worthy each day. That is what is meant by "I am a jealous God." And "visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children" means the punishment that must fall upon those who persevere in sin, while mercy is promised to "thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments." *Love and keep.* These are inseparable. No keeping the commandments without love; no love to God without keeping them.

You know how studious love is to please, how it makes hard things easy, and cannot endure to have anything called difficult to it. If you would have your obedience sweet and easy to yourself and acceptable to God, seek to have your heart full of love to him, a Father who is all love and goodness to you.

LEIGHTON.

January 12.

THE THIRD COMMANDMENT.

THOU shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain: for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain. — *Exodus* xx. 7.

JESUS said, "Hear, and understand: Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man." — *Matt. xv. 11.*

TAKE not His name, who made thy mouth, in vain,
It gets thee nothing and has no excuse.

GEORGE HERBERT.

ABOVE all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation. — *James v. 12.*

HE that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile. — *1 Peter iii. 10.*



January 13.

BY behavior we mean conduct and manner; then why should a young man not conform to the standard which is equally becoming in a young woman?

Courtesy, thoughtfulness, kind consideration, respectful bearing in action and posture and tone, all the little details that comprise manner or good-breeding, these are all as becoming to a man as to a woman. Strutting and swelling, and strident talking and laughing, and every form of selfish and boisterous and rude behavior are not to be "aped" by women, not because they are common among men, but because they are in themselves disagreeable and intolerable. The excellent author whose protest we are considering would agree that profanity is an offence which is singularly shocking and repulsive in a woman,

and in fact almost unknown except among the most abandoned women. But would he hold that it is to be shunned by women because it is a peculiarly manly vice? Certainly not, but because, whether in men or women, it is disgusting.

G. W. CURTIS.

THE words of the pure are pleasant words. — *Prov.*
xv. 26.

January 14.

THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT.

REMEMBER the sabbath day, to keep it holy.
Six days shalt thou labor and do all thy work :

But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God : in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy man-servant, nor thy maid-servant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates.

For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day : wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it. — *Exodus* xx. 8-11.

HOW CAN A CHILD KEEP SUNDAY HOLY?

PERHAPS it is not the custom of your family to go to church or send you to Sunday-school, and you spend Sunday as you do Saturday, as a holiday. But since God has commanded that one day in seven should be kept *holy*, the law is wise without doubt. Here are a few suggestions for keeping it holy : Pray in the morning that you may keep it holy ; learn and repeat this little prayer :
“ Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my

heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer." Make a resolution to do a kindness to some one, to pay some little attention to some one whom it will help or comfort, as taking flowers to a sick person, or to your grandmother, or your mother, or offer to read aloud to, or to walk with some one who would enjoy it ; they would be gratified by your wish to serve them, even if they could not accept it. Help the servants by making them no work. Amuse your younger brothers and sisters, and keep them happy in a right way, and make it your part to be a peacemaker in the family. Some such little service as this is possible to every child, and it may be a sacrifice to God.

Make it a rule for yourself not to read your fairy stories, nonsense-books, or any foolish reading, but to choose rather books that keep your mind on good or beautiful or religious thoughts. It is hard for a child to read much of a religious book at a time ; you find it dull and don't think about it ; but you can avoid silly, trifling, or exciting books, and read of noble, inspiring deeds, or stories that teach a distinctly moral lesson. It would be well for you to read the Bible regularly through, or rather those parts that give the history of the Hebrews as it is told in the Old Testament ; for from the Hebrew nation the world received the blessing of the Christian religion.* If your parents would buy for you "Scripture Readings for Children," as arranged by Miss C. M. Yonge, you would find there the Bible history selected from the parts which would not interest you, and you could make yourself familiar with all the stories of Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, and the others, which you will be sorry not to know when you are older and find allusions to them in almost every book you read. If you cannot have the selected "Scripture Readings," the parts you should read must be marked for you. Then you could read the whole of the

* You should ask your mother to mark the parts she wishes you to read ; for there is much that is not necessary to the story, which is best omitted.

Gospels. To set yourself a short Sunday task of reading and faithfully fulfil it would be a good Sunday-school for yourself.

Another rule you might make for yourself is not to stray about visiting young friends and chatting and frolicking with them. Keep the day sacred to your home and family and cultivate the friendship of your own brothers and sisters. They are the companions that God himself has chosen for you, and the more you draw near to them the more you will find you can enjoy, help, and comfort each other; and when the time comes that your family breaks up and is parted you will be most grateful that you have not neglected to use well the time while you could be together.

It is well for young people who have chances for amusement and pleasure every day to refrain from playing games on Sunday. No benefit can be gained from using the hours of the Sunday in playing cards or games of chance or competition, though these are innocent and good in their time. There is less to be said against games which exercise your body in the open air, but the objection which many people have to seeing them on the Sunday is not foolish, and it is better to respect it and not pain and shock them when you can play your games on other days and can exercise by walking with your family into the beautiful woods and fields, or in the city see the beauty of the trees and flowers and the sunset sky in the public parks and gardens. The habit of refraining from idle, unprofitable, or noisy pursuits and trying to learn something and to make the day happy though serious will be of use to you as you grow older. It is the opportunity given us for religious teaching and training our minds to understand and like good books. If we fail to use it, do you think we shall study these things on the week-days? Or shall we lose entirely from our lives this teaching of the soul? Think for yourself, is it best to

keep this commandment or not? "Ponder the path of thy feet and let all thy ways be established."

January 15.

FIFTH COMMANDMENT.

HONOR thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee. — *Exodus* xx. 12.

HAPPY he
With such a mother! faith in womankind
Beats with his blood, and trust in all things high
Comes easy to him, and though he trip and fall,
He shall not blind his soul with clay.

TENNYSON.

BE thou blest, and succeed thy father
In manners as in shape! thy blood and virtue
Contend for empire in thee; and thy goodness
Share with thy birthright! Love all; trust a few;
Do wrong to none; be able for thine enemy
Rather in power, than use; and keep thy friend
Under thy own life's key: be checked for silence
But never taxed for speech. What Heaven more will
That thee may furnish, and my prayers pluck down,
Fall on thy head.

SHAKESPEARE.

HOW WE SHOULD TREAT OUR MOTHER.

LET no day pass without some acknowledgment of your indebtedness to her. Study her unspoken wishes. Receive her opinions with respect. Yield your will to hers with perfect sweetness. In all she allows you to do for her, show by your zeal and cheerfulness that for her sake the employment is delightful.

January 16.

THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT.

THOU shalt not kill. — *Exodus* xx. 13.

JESUS said: Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment:

But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment:

Therefore, if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath aught against thee;

Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift. — *Matt.* v. 21, 22, 23, 24.

THIS means that if you have offended any one and not made your peace, you cannot pray in earnest, and must conquer your anger or pride and do all in your power to make reparation, before you can hope to be forgiven yourself.



January 17.

THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT.

THOU shalt not commit adultery. — *Exodus* xx. 14.

ABHOR that which is evil: cleave to that which is good. — *Rom.* xii. 9.

BLESSED are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. — *Matt.* v. 8.

THIS commandment forbids us to harbor impure and unclean thoughts, and teaches us to avoid all words, and deeds, and feelings that we should blush to own.

As long as you keep your heart and your life so pure that you have nothing to hide from your mother and sister, you are keeping this wise law of God.



January 18.

THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT.

THOU shalt not steal. — *Exodus* xx. 15.

Do all things like a man, not sneakingly:
Think the King sees thee still; for his King does.

HERBERT.

PERHAPS the children who read this book will feel that the Eighth Commandment forbids so plain a wrong that they may pass it over without consideration as one that does not concern them. But if they consider it more carefully they will find that it applies to their temptations as well as to those of thieves. It forbids *dishonesty* or dishonorable dealings, and we must look at the little beginnings of this sin. It is stealing to take cake, or raisins, or an orange, or crackers from your mother's store-closet, or from the hands of her servants, *if* you do it without her knowledge and approval. Remember this: if you take or receive anything with the feeling that you had rather not have your mother see or hear of it, you are not acting honorably. Here is another instance: if you cheat about your lessons, if you accept a prompting or in any way make your teacher believe you know what you do not, you are stealing

credit that does not belong to you, and you are robbing yourself of your education, and wasting the opportunities which your parents give you. You are wronging yourself and them.

January 19.

THE NINTH COMMANDMENT.

THOU shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor. — *Exodus* xx. 16.

THESE six things doth the Lord hate : yea, seven are an abomination to him :

A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,

A heart that deviseth wicked imagination, feet that be swift in moving to mischief.

A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren. — *Prov.* vi. 16, 17, 18, 19.

Do not lie at all. Do not think of one falsity as harmless, and another as slight, and another as unintended. Cast them all aside : they may be light and accidental, but they are ugly soot from the smoke of the pit for all that ; and it is better that our hearts should be swept clean of them, without one care as to which is largest or blackest.

RUSKIN.

DARE to be true ; nothing can need a lie ;
A fault, which needs it most, grows two thereby.

HERBERT.

January 20.

THE TENTH COMMANDMENT.

THOU shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maid-servant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor's. — *Exodus* xx. 17.

AND all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it they removed and stood afar off.

And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us lest we die.

And Moses said unto the people, Fear not: for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not. — *Exodus* xx. 18-20.

LET your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee nor forsake thee.

So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me. — *Heb.* xiii. 5, 6.

January 21.

JESUS said, speaking of the Commandments in the Sermon on the Mount:—

Think not that I am come to destroy the law, I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven : but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. — *Matt.* v. 17, 18, 19.

SAFELY through another week
God has brought us on our way :
Let us now a blessing seek,
Waiting in his courts to-day, —
Day of all the week the best,
Emblem of eternal rest

REV. JOHN NEWTON.

A NEW commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another ; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. — *John* xiii. 34.

January 22.

THOU shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. — *Matt.* xxii. 37, 38, 39.

THE GOLDEN RULE.

BE you to others kind and true,
As you 'd have others be to you ;
And neither do nor say to men
Whate'er you would not take again.

ISAAC WATTS.

EVERY man takes care that his neighbor shall not cheat him. But a day comes when he begins to care that he do not cheat his neighbor. Then all goes well. He has changed his market-cart into a chariot of the sun.

EMERSON.

January 23.

WISDOM'S ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. — *Prov.* iii. 17.

THE BLESSING OF GOD ON HOME.

OH, make our house thy sanctuary!
Come in to us, a friendly guest,
And in our circle ever tarry,
Then shall we be forever blest,
And thou, a housemate, shall these walls
Transfigure into royal halls.

One tender bond all hearts embraces, —
A heavenly bond, thy hand hath wove;
The rooms are turned to temple-spaces,
Illumined with God's peace and love.
Grace is the sunshine of our home,
And there God's angels go and come.

IF you would live in an atmosphere of benevolence, make it your study to be always rendering others service, and never hesitate to ask the same of them. In offering help, you make a step towards gaining a friend; in asking it, you please by this mark of your confidence. The result of this will be a constant habit of mutual forbearance, and a fear to be disobliging in matters of greater importance.



January 24.

BE SLOW TO ANGER. — *Prov.* xvi. 32.

GENTLENESS is always and everywhere good. Violence is sudden, passionate, and soon passes away. It is a duty to speak gently to all, to whatever class they

belong. It is a good rule never to speak when we are in a passion, and never to speak to one who is in a passion.

CHILD'S BOOK OF RELIGION.

IF I meet with railing tongues,
Why should I return their railing?
Since I best revenge my wrongs,
By my patience never failing.

I'll not willingly offend,
Nor be easily offended;
What's amiss I'll strive to mend,
And endure what can't be mended.

May I be so watchful still
O'er my humors and my passion,
As to speak and do no ill,
Though it should be all the fashion.

MY OWN LITTLE HYMN BOOK.



January 25.

OBEY my voice and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I commanded you, that it may be well unto you. — *Jer.* vii. 23.

Now that my journey's just begun,
My course so little trod,
I'll come, before I further run,
And give myself to God.

What sorrows may my steps attend,
I cannot now foretell;
But if the Lord will be my friend,
I know that all is well.

If all my earthly friends should die,
And leave me mourning here,
Since God regards the orphan's cry,
Oh, what have I to fear?

If I am rich, He 'll guard my heart,
Temptation to withstand;
And make me willing to impart
The bounties of his hand.

If I am poor, He can supply,
Who has my table spread;
Who feeds the ravens when they cry,
And fills his poor with bread.

And, Lord, whatever grief or ill
For me may be in store,
Make me submissive to thy will,
And I would ask no more.

JANE TAYLOR.



January 26.

THE heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament showeth his handy-work.

Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge.

There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard. — *Ps.* xix. 1, 2, 3.

THE spacious firmament on high,
With all the blue ethereal sky,
And spangled heavens, a shining frame,
Their great Original proclaim.
The unwearied sun, from day to day,
Does his Creator's power display,
And publishes to every land
The work of an almighty hand.

Soon as the evening shades prevail,
The moon takes up the wondrous tale,
And nightly to the listening earth
Repeats the story of her birth;
While all the stars that round her burn,
And all the planets, in their turn,
Confirm the tidings as they roll,
And spread the truth from pole to pole.

What though in solemn silence all
Move round this dark terrestrial ball!
What though no real voice nor sound
Amid their radiant orbs be found! —
In reason's ear they all rejoice,
And utter forth a glorious voice;
Forever singing as they shine,
“The hand that made us is divine.”

JOSEPH ADDISON.

OFTEN, on a winter's night, when the sky is sparkling with innumerable stars, I have gone out and looked hour after hour at the majestic orbs, — the great double stars, blue and yellow, orange and purple; the clustering brilliant constellations, blazing like a crown of diamonds in the sky, — and have at last felt almost as if I had left this little planet and was roaming through the infinite universe of God. But what are all these to the soul of man, — to the majestic intellect which can mete out the heavens with a span, and comprehend the dust of the earth in a measure, and weigh the mountains in scales?

JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE.

January 27.

O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known me.
Thou knowest my sitting down and my rising up,
thou understandest my thoughts from afar! Thou seest

my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. — *Ps.* cxxxix. 1, 2, 3.

THE PLEASURES OF INDUSTRY.

MAMMA, my dear mamma, I've been so happy all the day,
And yet I've done a deal of work and had but little play;
The time that sometimes seems so long has seemed so short
to me.

And yet the real length's the same; where can the difference
be?

When first I rose I dressed myself, Jane was not in the way,
I crept as quiet as a mouse to the bed where Baby lay,
I stole into the garden next, — 't was gemmed with morning
dew, —

And gathered some ripe strawberries for dear papa and you.

Then breakfast came; you know, mamma, I was not idle
then.

You said you thought my motto was, Eat quick and come
again;

And something else you said beside: it was, you could n't eat
If you had not been tempted by my strawberries so sweet.

What was the next thing that I did? Oh, now I recollect.

I tried to make amends for yesterday's neglect;

The flowers within the drawing-room were withered all and
dead,

And so I gathered fresher ones and placed them in their
stead.

Then poor Dame Goodman came to say her son was very ill,
And that the doctor had declared he must be kept quite still;
But that he could not sleep because the children made a
noise.

And so to keep them quieter I offered them my toys.

She smiled and thanked me very much, and said she could
not tell,

But she believed my welcome gifts would help to make him
well;

Because they'd keep the little ones so quiet all the day,
And if he could but sleep a while his pains would go away.

Then came the time for needlework. I marked two letters
well,
And hemmed a pocket-handkerchief and taught myself to
spell
Those three hard words that you had marked as being wrong
before,
And then the parlor clock chimed out the welcome hour of
four.

Then farewell slates and books, and all my daily task was
done,
And I was free to range about, to sing, to laugh, to run,
To skip, to dance, to ride, to walk, or with my dolls to play,
Now, dear mamma, say, has not this been a delightful day?
It has, dear child; the reason is you have been well employed.
That is the secret why the day has been so much enjoyed.

MRS. A. WATTS.

January 28.

A **N**OTHER six days' work is done;
Another Sabbath is begun:
Return, my soul, enjoy thy rest,
Improve the day which God hath blest.

Oh that our hearts and thanks may rise,
As grateful incense, to the skies,
And draw from heaven that sweet repose
Which none but he that feels it knows!

JOSEPH STENNETT, 1713.

HOME HELPING.

BEAR ye one another's burdens. — *Gal.* vi. 2.

WHAT makes a home restful and harmonious? The spirit of helpfulness which keeps all the members on the alert to make life easier for one another. Children are

necessarily helped in so many ways that they often fall into a habit of expecting it, and neglect to do their part toward making home life smooth and cheery.

How can children be helpful? In a thousand ways. First and foremost, they can save wear and tear to others by taking care of themselves, so far as the minor details of neatness and health are concerned, by keeping their own hands clean and hair brushed, remembering to put on their overcoats and india rubbers, guarding against extremes of heat and cold, avoiding unnecessary dangers and improper food, etc. Also, by promptly obeying family rules, going to bed, getting up, and coming to meals punctually, by cheerfully performing all those regular duties which have fallen to their lot, by doing at once whatever is asked of them by the older persons, by putting away their own things, by remembering to learn their lessons, by not making hideous or unpleasant noises, by avoiding as far as possible all those things which make extra work for somebody else, such as coming into the house with muddy shoes, etc.

Helpfulness sometimes consists in refraining from doing, in not meddling when you can't help.

E. L. H.



January 29.

HOME HELPING—*continued.*

ANTICIPATE the wishes of other people. Help which is voluntary is twice as good as that which is demanded.

Be on the look-out for opportunities to perform little offices of kindness. The sum total of life is composed of small things, and every-day details make up happiness or unhappiness.

Any home, however poor, can be harmonious, and anything that serves to bring its different elements into accord is helpful.

Bring your best and freshest life into the family. Music, reading aloud, story telling, and games will crowd out quarrelling and dissipation, and make the home a centre which all its members gladly seek.

Cheerful words and looks, gentle ways, attentive eyes to see, and ready sympathy to share one another's joys and sorrows, unite all temperaments and ages, and form the best foundation for mutual home helping.

Try to be trustworthy; remember messages; do not loiter on errands; and learn to make the slight mental effort necessary to recollect where you have seen articles that are wanted in the house, or that have been mislaid. The habit of saying "I don't know" on such occasions is very discouraging.

E. L. H.

BE useful where thou livest, that they may

Both want and wish thy pleasing presence still.

Kindnesse, good parts, great places are the way—

To compass this. Find out men's wants and will,

And meet them there. All worldly joys go less

To the one joy of doing kindnesses.

HERBERT.

January 30.

THE eyes of the Lord are upon them that love him; he is their mighty protection and strong stay; a defence from the heat, and a cover from the sun at noon; a preservation from stumbling, and a help from falling.

He raiseth up the soul, and lighteneth the eyes; he giveth health, life, and blessing. — *Ecclesiasticus* xxiv.

By whom was David taught
To aim the deadly blow,
When he Goliath fought,
And laid the Gittite low?
Nor sword, nor spear, the stripling took,
But chose a pebble from the brook.

'T was Israel's God and King
Who sent him to the fight;
Who gave him strength to sling,
And skill to aim aright.
Ye feeble saints, your strength endures
Because young David's God is yours.

Who ordered Gideon forth
To storm the invader's camp,
With arms of little worth,
A pitcher and a lamp?
The trumpets made his coming known
And all the host was overthrown.

Oh! I have seen the day
When, with a single word,
God helping me to say,
"My trust is in the Lord,"
My soul has quelled a thousand foes,
Fearless of all that could oppose.

But unbelief, self-will,
Self-righteousness, and pride
How often do they steal
My weapon from my side!
Yet David's Lord and Gideon's friend
Will help his servant to the end.

COWPER.

January 31.

PRAYER THE WAY TO GOD.

PRAYER is to God the soul's sure way;
So flows the grace he waits to give.
Long as they live should Christians pray;
They learn to pray when first they live.

'T is prayer supports the soul that 's weak,
Though poor and broken be its word.
Pray if thou can, or canst not, speak;
The breathings of the soul are heard.

Depend on Him; thou shalt prevail.
Make all thy wants and wishes known.
Fear not, his mercy will not fail;
Ask but in faith, it shall be done.

JOSEPH HART.

PRAY for one another that ye may be healed.—
James v. 16.

THERE are those, whom we can help in no other way,
whom we can meet and help in prayer. The mother's
prayer for her absent child reaches far over the ocean,
and on distant seas puts peace into his heart.

JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE.

FOR what are men better than sheep or goats
That nourish a blind life within the brain,
If, knowing God, they lift not hands of prayer
Both for themselves and those who call them friend?
For so the whole round earth is every way
Bound by gold chains about the feet of God.

TENNYSON.

February 1.

WHAT is it — for thine eye can see —
That is so very dear to me,
That steals my thoughts away from thee,
And leads me into sin ?

Whatever gives me most delight,
If 't is offensive in thy sight,
I would no more pursue.
Since nothing can be good for me,
However pleasant it may be,
That is displeasing, Lord, to thee,
May I dislike it too !

These trifling pleasures here below —
I wonder why I love them so ;
They cannot make me blest.
Oh that to love my God might be,
The greatest happiness to me !
And may he give me grace to see
That this is not my rest !

JANE TAYLOR.

ACQUAINT thyself with God and be at peace : thereby
good shall come unto thee. — *Job* xxii. 21.

February 2.

REMEMBER now thy Creator in the days of thy
youth. — *Ecc.* xii. 1.

It is God that girdeth me with strength, and maketh
my way plain. — *Ps.* xviii. 32.

WHEN we devote our youth to God,
 'T is pleasing in his eyes :
 A flower, when offered in the bud,
 Is no vain sacrifice.

'T is easier work if we begin
 To fear the Lord betimes ;
 While sinners that grow old in sin
 Are hardened in their crimes.

'T will save us from a thousand snares,
 To mind religion young ;
 Grace will preserve our following years,
 And make our virtue strong.

To thee, Almighty God, to thee
 Our childhood we resign ;
 'T will please us to look back and see,
 That our whole lives were thine.

ISAAC WATTS.

February 3.

SUDDEN fear troubleth thee ; or darkness, that thou
 canst not see.

Is not God in the height of heaven ? and behold the
 height of the stars, how high they are ! — *Job* xxii. 10,
 11, 12.

WHAT is the punishment for neglect to cultivate a love
 of the beautiful ?

Loss of joy and spirit that beauty imparts.

What is the punishment for irreverence ?

Insensibility to the worth of holy and divine things ;
 want of seriousness in character ; coarseness of mind, and
 hardness of feeling ; a trifling and flippant heart.

What is the punishment for neglecting worship ?

It is that the great object of worship disappears, and we are left alone, without the feeling of God above us, a spirit within, or a heaven beyond.

CHILD'S BOOK OF RELIGION.

WHEN he says, "I ought;" when love warms him; when he chooses, warned from on high, the good and great deed; then deep melodies wander through his soul from the Supreme Wisdom.

EMERSON.

February 4.

THE Lord is with you while ye are with him, and if ye seek him, he will be found of thee.

When thou saidst, Seek ye my face, my heart said unto thee, Thy face, Lord, will I seek.

The Lord our God be with us, that he may incline our hearts unto him.

Draw nigh to God and he will draw nigh to you.

WHILE thee I seek, protecting Power,
Be my vain wishes stilled;
And may this consecrated hour,
With better hopes be filled.
Thy love the powers of thought bestowed,
To thee my thoughts would soar;
Thy mercy o'er my life has flowed,
That mercy I adore.

In each event of life, how clear
Thy ruling hand I see!
Each blessing to my soul more dear
Because conferred by thee.
In every joy that crowns my days,
In every pain I bear,
My heart shall find delight in praise,
Or seek relief in prayer.

When gladness wings my favored hour,
Thy love my thought shall fill ;
Resigned, when storms of sorrow lower,
My soul shall meet thy will.
My lifted eye, without a tear,
The gathering storm shall see ;
My steadfast heart shall know no fear,
That heart will rest on thee.

HELEN MARIA WILLIAMS, 1786.

February 5.

WE will think of thy lovingkindness, O Lord,
because thy lovingkindness is better than life. —
Ps. lxiii. 3.

THE thought of God is never wearisome ; why not always cherish it ? Go on without trembling beneath the eye of God. Never fear to smile, love, hope, and enjoy all that makes life sweet. God rejoices in our pleasures as a mother in the joys of her child.

What is contrary to God's will, grieves him, and does you harm ; that alone you need fear : the thought that will stain your soul ; the wish that troubles your heart ; the unwholesome action that will weaken your intellect and destroy your peace.

Never long for what God sees fit to deny.

GOLD DUST.

OVER our hearts and into our lives
Shadows will sometimes fall ;
But the sunshine is never wholly dead,
And heaven is shadowless overhead,
And God is over all.

February 6.

GIVE me the tongue that always shrinks
 From giving others pain,
 The loving heart that never thinks
 An act of kindness vain.
 Anoint my eyes, O God, to see
 The beautiful and true,
 And ready hands, oh, grant to me,
 All blessed deeds to do.

If any man among you seem to be religious, and
 bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this
 man's religion is vain. — *James i. 26.*

How is the spirit of true religion shown?

By loving what is true, just, and good; by showing
 truth, justice, and goodness, in the life; and by living to
 help the erring, the suffering, the wronged, and the wicked.

CHILD'S BOOK OF RELIGION.

February 7.

WISE according to the wisdom of an angel of God.
 — *2 Sam. xiv. 20.*

WE find in our dull road their shining track,
 In every nobler mood
 We feel the orient of their spirit glow,
 Part of our life's unalterable good,
 Of all our saintlier aspiration.

LOWELL.

I SAW her upon nearer view,
 A spirit, yet a woman too;
 Her household motions light and free,
 And steps of virgin liberty;
 A countenance in which did meet
 Sweet records, promises as sweet;

A being breathing thoughtful breath,
A traveller between life and death ;
The reason firm, the temperate will,
Endurance, foresight, strength, and skill ;
A perfect woman, nobly planned
To warn, to comfort, and command.
And yet a spirit still and bright
With something of an angel light.

WORDSWORTH.

February 8.

BLESSED are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. — *Matt. v. 7.*

TEASING AND BANTERING.

WHAT do we mean by teasing? Sticking spiritual pins and needles into the souls of those about us ; hunting for the sore spots, and probing them, not like skilful doctors, with a view to heal, but in order to hurt. This is sometimes disguised as banter or harmless joking but it oftener happens that joking which begins in a merry and kindly spirit, ends in malicious teasing or angry quarrelling.

The results are : first, good-nature is apt to be lost in the excitement of saying smart things ; as more than average self-control is requisite to restrain a "telling remark," even though its utterance gives pain.

Second, it breaks up the pleasant social relations of life by destroying confidence in mutual good-will.

It substitutes bickering for intellectual conversation, thereby lowering the standard of thought and action, wasting time and ability. It spoils good tempers and ruins bad ones. Children who are habitually teased are pitiful to see, and generally grow up sad or cross.

The gentle natures become suspicious and whining ; the sterner, morose and combative. Pleasant material surroundings in a home are powerless against this mischievous influence.

E. L. H.



February 9.

TEASING AND BANTERING — *continued.*

BE ye therefore merciful, as your Father is merciful.
— *Luke vi. 36.*

WHY do children tease each other? Sometimes to gratify a hateful spirit which similar treatment has engendered in themselves, but oftener because they think it is smart. Boys and girls who would gladly, at any cost, protect younger brothers and sisters from physical pain, think it a joke to *frustrate their plans, expose their little secrets, or ridicule their small weaknesses*, thereby inflicting wounds which leave scars in after life.

"Only in fun" is a mean excuse for doing something that is fun to no one but yourself, and gives pain to another.

How much of such *fun* would there be if we always practised the Golden Rule?

True wit should be *kindly*, as well as keen, and tenderly careful never to force itself on the moods of others.

The lives of many are full of hidden sorrows. Remember the fable of "The Boys and The Frogs."

A really bright person can always find subjects upon which to exercise his wit which will be agreeable to all.

Only the dull and uncultured but "would-be-witty" are forced to make merry over personal foibles and peculiarities.

Learn to look on the serious side. Those who are merry and thoughtless, readily fall into the habit of seeing the ridiculous in everything.

This is good so far as it helps them to laugh at their own troubles and blunders, but must be promptly checked when it interferes with the sympathy due to the misfortunes of others, or when it hinders appreciation of noble actions or persons because they happen to be "a little odd."

Avoid teasing and ridicule of others, as a duty to God, to one's self, and to others, by having an object or work in life, which will make everything look mean and unworthy that is not developing to one's self and helpful to others.

E. L. H.



February 10.

AS thy day, so shall thy strength be. — *Deut.* xxxiii. 25.

Do not think about distant events. This uneasiness about the future is unwholesome for you. We must leave to God all that depends on him, and think only of being faithful in all that depends upon ourselves.

FÉNELON.

Go face whatever danger lies in the way of Duty, knowing you are guarded by the cherubim of Destiny.

EMERSON.

STRUGGLING through thy busy life
Set the Lord before thee ever ;
Every hour of peace or strife
Is from him ; then murmur never.
Are things adverse ? let them be.
God and heaven remain to thee.

February 11.

WORSHIP.

I WAS glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord. — *Ps. cxxii. 1.*

WILL you tell us what worship is ?

Worship is worthship, which means the possession of worth and also the service paid to worth. All service paid to worth is worship. Worship is paid to God as the worthiest being.

Is all service paid to God worship ?

Yes. Worship is of many kinds. Thankfulness is worship ; praise is worship ; the wish to be good is worship ; working for God is worship ; doing his will is worship ; prayer is worship.

Does God need our worship ?

Not for himself. God needs nothing that we can do for him or give him.

Does our worship make him happier ?

Only as it makes us happier and better. Our joy is his joy. Should not you think that the father of the world would be happier when his children are joyous than when they are not ?

Yes. But is worship a joyful thing ? We thought it was gloomy and painful.

Worship is the most joyful thing there is. It is like

the smiling of the earth in the sunshine. It is like the fragrance of the flowers and the ripe fruit of the trees. Worship is the voice that tells God how glad it makes us to think of him; how grateful we are for his goodness, and how much we wish to be like him.

Is worship a duty?

Yes, worship is a duty. It is a duty to thank those who do us kindness, to think often of the high and beautiful, and to imitate the best.

CHILD'S BOOK OF RELIGION.

GOD is in his holy temple, —
In the pure and holy mind,
In the reverent heart and simple,
In the soul from sense refined;
Then let every low emotion
Banished far and silent be,
And our souls, in pure devotion,
Lord, be temples worthy thee!

CHARLES WESLEY.

February 12.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

BORN 1809.

DIED 1865.

HIM that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out. — *Rev. iii. 12.*

NATURE, they say, doth dote,
And cannot make a man
Save on some worn-out plan,
Repeating us by rote.
For him her Old-World moulds aside she threw,
And, choosing sweet clay from the breast
Of the unexhausted West,

With stuff untainted shaped a hero new
Wise, steadfast in the strength of God, and true.
How beautiful to see
Once more a shepherd of mankind indeed,
Who loved his charge, but never loved to lead;
One whose meek flock the people joyed to be,
Not lured by any cheat of birth,
But by his clear-grained human worth,
And brave old wisdom of sincerity!

LOWELL.

RARELY was man so fitted to the event. Here was place for no holiday magistrate, no fair-weather sailor; the new pilot was hurried to the helm in a tornado. In four years—four years of battle-days—his endurance, his fertility of resources, his magnanimity, were sorely tried and never found wanting. There, by his courage, his justice, his even temper, his fertile counsel, his humanity, he stood a heroic figure in the centre of a heroic epoch. He is the true history of the American people in his time. Step by step, he walked before them, slow with their slowness, quickening his march by theirs, the true representative of this continent.

EMERSON.



February 13.

WHEN daily I kneel down to pray,
As I am taught to do,
God does not care for what I say,
Unless I feel it too.

Yet foolish thoughts my heart beguile;
And when I pray or sing,
I'm often thinking all the while
About some other thing.

Some idle play, or childish toy,
Can send my thoughts abroad;
Though this should be my greatest joy —
To love and seek the Lord.

Oh! let me never, never dare
To act the trifler's part;
Or think that God will hear a prayer
That comes not from my heart.

But if I make his ways my choice,
As holy children do,
Then, while I seek him with my voice,
My heart will love him too.

JANE TAYLOR.

IF any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea, driven with the wind and tossed.

For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord. — *James* i. 5, 6, 7.



February 14.

GOD resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

Submit yourselves therefore to God.

Draw nigh to him, and he will draw nigh to you. —
James iv. 6, 7, 8.

THE WAY TO FIND OUT PRIDE.

Now if you really wish to find
If pride be lurking in your mind,
Inquire if you can bear a slight,
Or patiently give up your right.
Can you submissively consent
To take reproof and punishment,
And feel no angry temper start,
In any corner of your heart?
Can you at once confess a crime,
And promise for another time?
Or say you've been in a mistake;
Nor try some poor excuse to make,
But freely own that it was wrong
To argue for your side so long?
Flat contradiction can you bear,
When you are right and know you are,
Nor flatly contradict again,
But wait, or modestly explain,
And tell your reasons one by one,
Nor think of triumph when you've done?

JANE TAYLOR.

February 15.

IF we say that we have no sin we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. — 1 John i. 8.

THE WAY TO FIND OUT PRIDE. — *continued.*

CAN you, in business or in play,
Give up your wishes or your way?
Or do a thing against your will,
For somebody that's younger still?
And never try to overbear,
Nor say a word that is not fair?
Does laughing at you in a joke
No anger nor revenge provoke;
But can you laugh yourself, and be
As merry as the company?

Or when you find that you could do
The harm to them they did to you,
Can you keep down the wicked thought,
And do exactly as you ought?
Put all these questions to your heart,
And make it act an honest part;
And when they 've each been fairly tried,
I think you 'll own that you have pride.
Some one will suit you as you go,
And force your heart to tell you so;
But if they all should be denied,
Then you 're too proud to own your pride.

JANE TAYLOR.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. —
1 *John*. 8.

February 16.

HUMBLE yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up. — *James* iv. 10.

THE WAY TO CURE PRIDE.

Now I suppose that, having tried,
And found the secret of your pride,
You wish to drive it from your heart,
And learn to act a humbler part.

Well, are you sorry and sincere?
I 'll try to help you then, my dear.

And first, the best, the surest way
Is to kneel down at once and pray;
The lowly Saviour will attend,
And strengthen you and stand your friend.
Tell him the mischief that you find
Forever working in your mind;
And beg his pardon for the past,
And strength to overcome at last.

But then you must not go your way,
And think it quite enough to pray :
That is but doing half your task ;
For you must watch as well as ask.
You pray for strength, and that is right :
But then it must be strength to fight ;
For where 's the use of being strong,
Unless you conquer what is wrong ?
Then look within : ask every thought
If it be humble as it ought ;
Put out the smallest spark of pride
The very moment 't is descried ;
And do not stay to think it o'er,
For while you wait it blazes more.
If it should take you by surprise,
And beg you just to let it rise,
And promise not to keep you long,
Say, " No ! the smallest pride is wrong."

JANE TAYLOR.



February 17.

EACH morning, hold yourself in readiness to obey all
His commands, in the way He wills, and with the
means He appoints.

GOLD DUST.

THE WAY TO CURE PRIDE. — *continued.*

AND when there 's something so amiss,
That pride says, " Take offence at this,"
Then if you feel at all inclined
To brood upon it in your mind,
And think revengeful thoughts within,
And wish it were not wrong to sin,
Oh, stop at once ! — for if you dare
To wish for sin, that sin is there !
'T will then be best to go and pray,
That God would take your pride away !

Or if just then you cannot go,
Pray in your thoughts, and God will know,
And beg his mercy to impart
That best of gifts, a humble heart.
Remember, too, that you must pray,
And watch and labor every day :
Nor think it wearisome or hard,
To be forever on your guard.
No ; every morning must begin
With resolutions not to sin ;
And every evening recollect
How much you 've failed in this respect.
Ask whether such a guilty heart
Should act a proud or humble part ;
Or, as the Saviour was so mild,
Inquire if pride becomes a child ;
And, when all other means are tried,
Be humble, that you 've so much pride.

JANE TAYLOR.

Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation.
— *Luke* xxvi. 41.

February 18.

THOU shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only
shalt thou serve. — *Matt.* iv. 10.

WORSHIP.

WHAT is the use of Worship ?

I will answer your question by asking another. What is the use of going out into the sunshine, or drinking the sweet summer air, or looking upon a landscape from a hilltop ? What is the use of reading beautiful poetry or looking at fine pictures ? What is the use of telling mamma that you love her, or thanking papa for his New Year's presents ; of wishing you were like some George

Washington or Florence Nightingale ; of praising or caressing some one older than yourself who seems to you perfection? All these acts help you to be more than you are.

But if we should not feel like worship, ought we, then, to go through the form of it?

If you never worship except when you feel like it you may never worship at all. We may learn to feel like it by trying ; and one way of learning to feel like it is to do it.

By doing kind actions because they are right and proper you may get the kind feelings that belong to them ; by thinking of goodness shown to you, and expressing thanks for it, you may really feel the gratitude you speak. It is the same with worship. If you do not feel the goodness and love of God you can think of them till you do ; and by and by the feeling of joy and gratitude will come.

CHILD'S BOOK OF RELIGION.

Ask and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full. —
John xvi. 24.



February 19.

GREAT peace have they which love Thy law ; and nothing shall offend them. — *Ps.* cxix. 165.

MORNING PRAYER.

I THANK thee, God, for giving me
Another happy night ;
I pray thee, God, that all this day
I may do what is right.

I pray thee make me good and kind
To every one I see ;
I pray thee keep me safe from harm
Wherever I may be.

I pray thee bless papa, mamma,
 Brothers and sisters too,
 And make us please thee day by day,
 In everything we do.

MRS. MOTHERLY.

LOVE God with all your soul and strength,
 With all your heart and mind ;
 And love your neighbor as yourself :
 Be faithful, just, and kind.

Deal with another as you 'd have
 Another deal with you :
 What you 're unwilling to receive,
 Be sure you never do.

ISAAC WATTS.

WHATSOEVER ye would that men should do unto you,
 do ye even so unto them. — *Matt.* vii. 12.

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

THE weary traveller lost in the sands of the desert may
 hear at evening the Bedouin call from his tent-door : —

“Whoever thou art whose need is great,
 In the name of God, the Compassionate
 And Merciful One, for thee I wait!”

February 20.

LET all your things be done with charity. — 1. *Cor.*
 xvi. 14.

LITTLE DEEDS.

NOT mighty deeds make up the sum
 Of happiness below,
 But little acts of kindness.
 Which any child may show.

A merry sound to cheer the babe,
And tell a friend is near;
A word of ready sympathy
To dry the childish tear;

A glass of water timely brought;
An offered easy-chair;
A turning of the window-blind
That all may feel the air;

An early flower unasked bestowed;
A light and cautious tread;
A voice to gentlest whisper hushed
To spare the aching head, —

Oh! deeds like these, though little things,
Yet purest love disclose,
As fragrant perfume on the air
Reveals the hidden rose.

Our heavenly Father loves to see
The precious fruits of love;
And, if we only serve him here,
We'll dwell with him above.

HYMNS FOR MOTHERS AND CHILDREN.



February 21.

BE ye doers of the word, not hearers only. — *James i.*
22.

SAY well is good, but *do* well is better:
Do well seems the spirit, say well the letter;
Say well is godly, and helps to please,
But do well lives godly, and gives the world ease.
If say well and do well were bound in one frame
Then all were done, all were won, and gotten were gain.

WHICH IS THE BEST,—SEEMING, OR BEING?

BEING. The only sure way to pass for anything is to be something. "When we are doing any thing that we feel sure ought to be done, we should never shrink from being seen to do it: for, if we are not acting rightly, we should shun the action; if we are, why should we fear to have men know it?"

CHILD'S BOOK OF RELIGION.

THE Lord is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me? — *Ps.* cxviii. 6.



February 22.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

BORN 1732.

DIED 1799.

THE righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. —
Ps. cxii. 6.

WHAT is the glory of the midnight heavens to that of a great spirit which rises to truth and God, and lifts up nations with it.

JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE.

WHAT figure more immovably august
Than that grave strength so patient and so pure,
Calm in good fortune, when it wavered, sure;
That mind serene, impenetrably just,
Modelled on classic lines so simple they endure?
Soldier and statesman, rarest unison;
High-poised example of great duties done.
Modest, yet firm as Nature's self: unblamed
Save by the men his nobler temper shamed;
Broad-minded, higher-souled, there is but one
Who was all this, and ours and all men's —
Washington.

LOWELL.

February 23.

THOUGH he be not far from every one of us. — *Acts*
xvii. 27.

GOD, beside you, will repair your blunders, provide means whereby you may atone for that sinful action by one more virtuous, wipe away the tears caused by some unmerited reproof or unkind word.

You have only to close your eyes for a moment, examine yourself, and softly murmur, "Lord, help me!"

Can you not hear God's voice speaking to you? What! when he says, *Bear this; I am here to aid thee*, you will refuse?

He says: *Continue another half-hour the work that wearies thee*; and you would stop?

He says: *Do not that*; and you do it?

He says: *Let us tread together the path of obedience*; and you answer, No?

GOLD DUST.

So nigh is grandeur to our dust,
So near is God to man,
When Duty whispers low, Thou must,
The youth replies, I can.

EMERSON.

February 24.

THE king's daughter is all glorious within. — *Ps.* 45,
13.

SHE that scorns hypocrisy,
And well believes
That she may dare
Speak out her faith in any air,

And honest meaning will not fail
O'er any falsehood to prevail.
Ay, do not fear it,
Speak the truth to who will hear it.
But still as now,
With pure good-will sculptured on thy brow,
And give us in the passing world
Hint of eternal cheer.

I INFER

'T was her thinking of others made you think of her.
She never found fault with you, never implied
Your wrong by her right; and yet men at her side
Grew nobler, girls purer, as through the whole town
The children were gladder that pulled at her gown.
The weak and the gentle, the ribald and rude,
She took as she found them, and did them all good.

MRS. BROWNING.

February 25.

WHERE two or three are gathered together in my
name there am I in the midst of them. — *Matt.*
xviii. 20.

WORSHIP.

PEOPLE worship in church; is it our duty to go to church?

I think it is, even when you had rather not, — when you have something pleasanter to do, when it is tiresome, and you cannot understand the minister's sermon. You should form the habit of going to church. If you do not see the use of it now, you will presently when you are older.

But if it does us no good ought we to go?

You must make it do you good; and after all, it may be doing you more good than you think. It will do you good to be patient and still there; to sit quietly and

listen, and take in as much as you can. But you must never forget what an old sage said, that "In worship the presence of mind will make amends for the absence of body, but the presence of the body will never make amends for the absence of the mind."

Is going to meeting doing service to God?

Not alone, or of itself; but it may help us to do service to God by making us think of him.

CHILD'S BOOK OF RELIGION.

WE 'VE passed another Sabbath day,
And heard of Jesus and of heaven;
We thank thee for thy Word, and pray
That this day's sins may be forgiven.

Forgive our inattention, Lord,
Our looks and thoughts that went astray;
Forgive our carelessness abroad,
At home our idleness and play.

May all we heard and understood,
Be well remembered through the week.
And help to make us wise and good,
More humble, diligent, and meek.

And when our lives are finished here,
And days and Sabbaths shall be o'er,
May we at thy right hand appear,
To serve and love thee evermore.

JANE TAYLOR.



February 26.

HYMN FOR A CHILD THAT HAS DONE WRONG.

WHAT is there, Lord, a child can do,
That feels with guilt oppressed?
There 's evil that I never knew
Before, within my breast.

My thoughts are vain; my heart is hard;
 My temper apt to rise;
 And when I seem upon my guard,
 It takes me by surprise.

Whene'er to thy commands I turn,
 I find I've broken them;
 And in thy holy Scriptures learn,
 That God will sin condemn.

And yet if I begin to pray,
 And would to thee draw nigh,
 Some thought of folly or of play,
 Prevents me when I try.

I feel there is no strength in me
 To do that work alone;
 But, Lord, I come and look to thee
 To change this heart of stone.

JANE TAYLOR.

GOD is our refuge and our strength, a very present help in trouble. — *Ps.* xlv. 1.

IF thou seek him he will be found of thee. — 1. *Chron.* xxviii. 9.



February 27.

ALL they that are true of heart shall be glad. — *Ps.* lxiv. 10.

STERN daughter of the voice of God!
 O Duty! if that name thou love,
 Who art a light to guide, a rod
 To check the erring, and reprove;
 Thou who art victory and law
 When empty terrors overawe;
 From vain temptation dost set free;
 And calm'st the weary strife of frail humanity!

There are who ask not if thine eye
 Be on them ; who, in love and truth,
 Where no misgiving is, rely
 Upon the genial sense of youth ;
 Glad hearts ! without reproach or blot ;
 Who do thy work and know it not ;
 May joy be theirs while life shall last !
 And thou, if they should totter, teach them to stand fast !

Stern law-giver ! yet thou dost wear
 The Godhead's most benignant grace ;
 Nor know we anything so fair
 As is the smile upon thy face ;
 Flowers laugh before thee on their beds ;
 And fragrance in thy footing treads ;
 Thou dost preserve the stars from wrong,
 And the most ancient heavens, through thee, are fresh and
 strong.

To humbler functions, awful power !
 I call thee ; I myself commend
 Unto thy guidance from this hour ;
 Oh ! let my weakness have an end !
 Give unto me, made lowly wise,
 The spirit of self-sacrifice ;
 The confidence of reason give ;
 And, in the light of truth, thy bond-man, let me live.

WORDSWORTH.

February 28.

TRUST in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy. — 1 *Tim.* vi. 17.

HE who cultivates wisdom cultivates the knowledge of God.

EPICETUS.

No one is free who commands not himself.

EPICETUS.

A RIGHT hand guided by an earnest soul
With a true instinct, takes the golden prize
From out a thousand blanks. What men call luck
Is the prerogative of valiant souls,
The fealty life pays its rightful kings.

LOWELL.

THE Lord bless thee and keep thee: the Lord make his face to shine upon thee: the Lord lift up his countenance upon thee and give thee peace. — *Num.* vi. 24, 25, 26.

February 29.

CAST away from you all transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed: and make you a new heart and a new spirit. — *Ezek.* xviii. 31.

YOU must resolve not to be disheartened, but, even if you were to fall a hundred times a day, determine to rise up each time and go onwards. . . . God will forgive the falls; they often are caused by undue haste, which prevents us from taking fitting precautions, or, with timid souls, from a perpetual looking around for imaginary dangers, which cause them to stumble. . . . Believe firmly that God is an indulgent Father, and will forgive the faults that take our weakness by surprise in spite of our sincere desire to please Him.

HE grieves more than is necessary who grieves before it is necessary.

SENECA.

Joy is divine. Come storm, come shine,
The hopeful are the gladdest;
And doubt and dread, dear child, believe,
Of all things are the saddest.

MARY. M. DODGE.

March I.

HE CARETH FOR US.

YES, for me, for me he careth
With a father's tender care;
Yes, with me, with me he shareth
Every burden, every fear.

Yes, o'er me, o'er me he watcheth,
Ceaseless watcheth, night and day;
Yes, even me, even me he snatcheth
From the perils of the way.

Yes, in me abroad he sheddeth
Joys unearthly, love and light;
And to cover me he spreadeth
His paternal wing of might.

Yes, in me, in me he dwelleth;
I in him, and he in me;
And my empty soul he filleth,
Here and through eternity.

HORATIUS BONAR.

CASTING all your care upon him, for he careth for you.
— 1 *Peter* v. 7.

THERE shall no evil befall thee,
For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep
thee in all thy ways. — *Ps.* xci. 10, 11.

March 2.

ADVICE.

DO not look for wrong or evil, —
You will find them if you do;
As you measure for your neighbor
He will measure back to you.

Look for goodness, look for gladness,
You will meet them all the while;
If you bring a smiling visage
To the glass, you meet a smile.

ALICE CAREY.

SHE was not happy; she had never been very happy in her life, for she had always found occasion for unhappiness around her; and those who do this in childhood and youth will be sure to find these occasions for increased unhappiness as they grow older. The young in years, if they wish life to be happy, must always look out, on all occasions, for the blessings that every pathway abounds in, rejoicing in these with thankfulness to the all-gracious Giver. If they do this, a light will be reflected on trial, and they will learn, as life advances, that most wondrous truth, that even in the pathway of tribulation "the joy of the Lord is your strength."

MINISTERING CHILDREN.

LIGHT is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart. — *Ps. xcvii. 11.*

March 3.

THE blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it. — *Prov. x. 22.*

WHEN all thy mercies, O my God,
My rising soul surveys,
Transported with the view, I'm lost
In wonder, love, and praise.

Unnumbered comforts on my soul
Thy tender care bestowed,
Before my infant heart conceived
From whom those comforts flowed.

When in the slippery paths of youth,
With heedless steps I ran,
Thine arm, unseen, conveyed me safe,
And led me up to man.

When worn with sickness, oft hast thou
With health renewed my face;
And when in sin and sorrow sunk,
Revived my soul with grace.

Ten thousand thousand precious gifts
My daily thanks employ;
Nor is the least a cheerful heart,
That tastes those gifts with joy.

Thy bounteous hand, with worldly goods,
Hast made my cup run o'er,
And, in a kind and faithful friend,
Hast doubled all my store.

JOSEPH ADDISON.

March 4.

THUS saith the Lord, Gather the people together,
men and women and children, that they may
learn and fear the Lord your God, and observe to do
all the words of the law.

Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of
God.

Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not, for it is thy life.

The Lord is great, and greatly to be praised. Honor and majesty are before him ; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

Come ye, let us go to the house of God ; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths.

WE love the venerable house
Our fathers built to God ;
In heaven are kept their grateful vows,
Their dust endears the sod.

Here holy thoughts a light have shed
From many a radiant face,
And prayers of humble virtue made
The perfume of the place.

And anxious hearts have pondered here
The mystery of life,
And prayed the eternal Light to clear
Their doubts, and aid their strife.

From humble tenements around
Came up the pensive train,
And in the church a blessing found,
That filled their homes again ;

For faith and peace and mighty love
That from the Godhead flow,
Showed them the life of heaven above
Springs from the life below.

They live with God ; their homes are dust ;
Yet here their children pray,
And in this fleeting lifetime trust
To find the narrow way.

On him who by the altar stands,
On him thy blessing fall ;
Speak through his lips thy pure commands,
Thou heart that lovest all.

EMERSON.

March 5.

IN the most prominent place [in Miss Andrews' school-room] was the guiding motto, "Self-Control," — the gospel that Miss Andrews most cared to teach, the truth that no outside help is of any use to us, unless the forces within are held with a strong hand, and that we ourselves are the shapers of our own lives.

HE that ruleth his spirit is greater than he that taketh a city.

NOT what we wish, but what we want,
Thy mercy still supply;
The good unasked, O Father, grant,
The ill, though asked, deny.

MERRICK.

March 6.

AND be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God hath forgiven you.

Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; and walk in love as Christ also hath loved us.

And let the peace of God rule in your hearts.

LITTLE children, love each other,
Is the blessed Saviour's rule;
Every little one is brother
To his playfellow at school.

We 're all children of one Father,
The great God who reigns above;
Shall we quarrel? No; much rather
We would be like him — all love.

He has placed us here together,
That we may be good and kind;
He is ever watching whether
We are of one heart and mind.

Who is stronger than the other?
He should be the weak one's friend;
Who's more playthings than his brother?
He'll delight to give and lend.

Children who are like the Saviour
Give kind looks and gentle words
And always by their good behavior
They are known to be the Lord's.

ANON.



March 7.

CONSCIENCE.

WHEN a foolish thought within
Tries to take us in a snare,
Conscience tells us, "It is sin!"
And entreats us to beware.

If in something we transgress,
And are tempted to deny,
Conscience says, "Your fault confess;
Do not dare to tell a lie!"

In the morning, when we rise,
And would fain omit to pray,
"Child, consider!" Conscience cries;
"Should not God be sought to-day?"

When our angry passions rise,
Tempting to revenge an ill,
"Now subdue it!" Conscience cries;
"Do command your temper still."

Thus, without our will or choice,
This good monitor within,
With a secret, gentle voice,
Warns us to beware of sin.

But if we should disregard,
While these friendly voices call,
Conscience soon will grow so hard
That it will not speak at all.

JANE TAYLOR.

HEREIN do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God and toward men. —
Acts xxiv. 16.

March 8.

THE reason why people so ill know how to do their duty on great occasions is that they will not be diligent in doing their duty on little occasions. Here, too, let us only take care of the pence, and the pounds will take care of themselves; for God will be the paymaster. But how will he pay us? In kind, doubtless; by supplying us with greater occasions, and enabling us to act worthy of them.

HARE.

NEVER WASTE ANYTHING.

WHILE some poor children that I meet
Have very little food to eat,
Thanks to my heavenly Father's care,
I have enough, and some to spare.

Then never must I waste that bread
By which the hungry may be fed;
For those who throw their food away
Will want for that same food some day.

Not anything would I destroy
Which others may for good employ;
Nor even tread beneath my feet
A crumb some little bird would eat.

I must not little things despise,
For much from little things may rise;
And every moment, every mite,
Is of some use, when used aright.

MY OWN LITTLE HYMN BOOK.

HE that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also
in much. — *Luke xvi. 10.*

March 9.

HOW TO LEARN A LESSON.

AN easy lesson may appear
Too hard at first for me,
Although to others very clear,
And simple as can be.

If with good will I try to learn,
Soon I may find it plain;
But if from it in haste I turn,
Hard it will still remain.

It will not do to think or say,
" 'T is of no use to try ;"
To give it up is not the way,
Nor yet to fret or cry.

The way to make a lesson plain,
Which now too hard I find,
Is but to try, and try again,
With all my heart and mind.

I know not when I may get through,
In time, with proper care ;
What others have done I may do,
And their reward may share.

MY OWN LITTLE HYMN BOOK.

WHATSOEVER thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy
might. — *Eccl.* ix. 10.

ALL that you do, do with your might ;
Things done by halves are never done right.
One thing each time, and that done well,
Is a very good rule, as many can tell.

M. A. STODARD.



March 10.

BE JUST AND FEAR NOT.

[From a Sermon to Children by Dean Stanley.]

I KNEW once a very famous man (it was Adam Sedgwick) who lived to be eighty-eight years old, and who was the delight of every one about him. He always stood up for what was right. His eye was like the eagle's when it flashed fire against what was wrong. And how early do you think he began to do this? I have an old grammar which belonged to him, all tattered and torn, which he had when he was a little boy at school ; and what do I find written in his own hand on the first page of it? I find these words.

“ Still in thy right hand carry gentle peace,
To silence envious tongues.”

“ Be just, and fear not.”

That was his rule all through life, and he was loved and honored down to the day when he was borne to his

grave. Be just, be good, and fear not. Let that be your rule ; and God and Jesus Christ will be with you now and always.

THE path of the just is as the shining light ; that shineth more and more unto the perfect day. — *Prov. iv. 18.*



March 11.

LORD, who shall abide in Thy tabernacle? Who shall dwell in thy holy hill. — *Ps. xv. 1.*

THE fifteenth psalm is also almost certainly written by David. It was what he wrote, we may suppose, when he had conquered Jerusalem, and asked who was worthy to live in the holy city ; that is, what are the characters that God loves and wishes to be with him? There is no difficulty in understanding what David says in the verses which follow the first ; and when people talk of the difficulty of teaching religion to children, let them remember these different verses of the fifteenth psalm.

They will find how very easily they can be learned, and how very easily they can be applied.

I will try to apply them now ; and so I turn to you, my children, and having told you how much we and your country expect from you, I will tell you who it is that shall be thought worthy of the house of God and his holy hill, and I will ask those who are parents and friends, or who have any influence over any of these children, to try to make a good atmosphere round about them, so that these conditions may become possible and easy for them. What, then, is it that we may recommend to all children if they would wish to please their parents, to please God, and to go to heaven?

Love honest work.

Love to get knowledge.

Never forget to say your prayers morning and evening ; never be ashamed to say them. It will help you to be good all through the day.

Always keep your promises.

Do not pick up foolish and dirty stories.

Never, never tell a lie.

Never strike, or hurt, or be rude to a woman or a girl, or to any one weaker or younger than yourselves.

Be ready even to risk your own lives to save a friend, or a companion, or a brother, or a sister.

Be very kind to poor dumb animals. Never put them to pain. They are God's creatures as well as you ; and if you hurt them you will become brutal and base yourselves.

A. P. STANLEY.

March 12.

HE that is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he that ruleth his spirit, than he that taketh a city. — *Prov. xvi. 32.*

A TRUE soldier's first battle is with himself, and he never gives in until he has conquered — conquered himself. You fought with another and were obliged to give in ; but if you had fought with yourself, you might have won the day, like a true soldier.

You will never win your spurs, nor be one of those true Christian knights you are so fond of hearing about, if you strike at women. You should live to take care of them, and comfort them in trouble, but learn to govern yourself.

MINISTERING CHILDREN.

HE who reigns within himself, and rules
Passions, desires, and fears, is more a king ;
Which every wise and virtuous man attains.

March 13.

AS we cannot prepare ourselves sufficiently for the opportunities of each day by any amount of discipline, or any strength of determination, we have a right to believe that, by looking up and opening our soul to God, he will give us the power of meeting each opportunity aright.

JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE.

MY TIMES ARE IN THY HAND.

FATHER, I know that all my life
Is portioned out for me ;
The changes that will surely come
I do not fear to see.
I ask thee for a present mind,
Intent on pleasing thee.

I ask thee for a thoughtful love,
Through constant watching wise,
To meet the glad with joyful smiles,
And wipe the weeping eyes ;
A heart at leisure from itself,
To soothe and sympathize.

I would not have the restless will
That hurries to and fro,
Seeking for some great thing to do,
Or secret thing to know.
I would be treated as a child,
And guided where I go.

Wherever in the world I am,
 In whatsoe'er estate,
 I have a fellowship with hearts
 To keep and cultivate;
 A work of lowly love to do
 For Him on whom I wait.

ANNA L. WARING.

March 14.

GOD is so good that he will hear,
 Whenever children humbly pray;
 He always lends a gracious ear
 To what the youngest child can say.

His own most holy Book declares
 He loves good little children still;
 And that he listens to their prayers,
 Just as a tender father will.

He loves to hear an infant's tongue
 Thank him for all his mercies given;
 And when by babes his praise is sung,
 Their cheerful notes are heard in heaven.

JANE TAYLOR.

FOR the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers; but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil. — 1 *Peter* iii. 12.

WHAT asks our Father of his children, save
 Justice and mercy and humility;
 A reasonable service of good deeds,
 Pure living, tenderness to human needs;
 Reverence and trust and prayer for light to see
 The Master's footsteps in our daily ways?
 No knotted scourge, nor sacrificial knife
 But the calm beauty of an ordered life;
 Whose very breathing is unworded praise,
 A life that stands, as all true lives have stood,
 Fast rooted in the faith that God is Good.

WHITTIER.

March 15.

MY voice shalt thou hear this morning,
For the day is all unknown,
And I am afraid without thine aid
To travel its hours alone.
Give me thy light to lead me,
Give me thy hand to guide,
Give me thy living presence,
To journey side by side.

SUNDAY MAGAZINE.

FEAR thou not ; for I am with thee : be not dismayed ;
for I am thy God : I will strengthen thee ; yea, I will
help thee ; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand
of my righteousness. — *Isa.* xli. 10.

As a countenance is made beautiful by the soul's
shining through it, so the world is made beautiful by
the shining through it of God.

JACOBI.

March 16.

HE that hath clean hands and a pure heart, he shall
receive the blessing from the Lord. — *Ps.* xxiv.
4, 5.

WHAT is the punishment for disobeying the voice of
conscience?

It is that conscience dies, the sense of evil is lost, and
the power of distinguishing evil from good is taken
away.

What is the punishment for indulging in profane or
impure words or thoughts?

It is that the heart becomes unclean, and loves unclean things. The impure in heart will be impure in life; and they who take the holy Name in vain will be in danger of going without help from the Holy Spirit.

What is the punishment for neglecting to learn God's will as taught in the Scriptures, in all holy books, and in the lessons of Providence?

It is that God's will is not known; and, when God's will is not known, it cannot be loved or obeyed. Then self-will and passion rule us. The greatest of all duties is to study God's will wherever it may be found, but chiefly where it is written the most clearly,—in the words of the New Testament.

CHILD'S BOOK OF RELIGION.

IF thou do ill, the joy fades, not the pains;
If well, the pain doth fade, the joy remains.

HERBERT.



March 17.

CREATE in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

PRAYER BOOK.

OH for a heart to praise my God, —
A heart from sin set free;
A heart that always feels how good,
Thou, Lord, hast been to me!

Oh for a humble, contrite heart,
Believing, true, and clean,
Which neither life nor death can part
From Him who dwells within.

Thy temper, gracious Lord, impart;
Come quickly from above:
Oh, write thy name upon my heart;
Thy name, O God, is love.

CHARLES WESLEY, 1742.

March 18.

A MERRY heart doeth good like a medicine. — *Prov.*
xxii. 22.

BLESSED is the pleasant face. It soothes the sick, rests the weary, cheers the sad, and makes home happy. It soothes the sick by its silent suggestions of joy and hope. In making them forget themselves, it often charms away the pain which has defied the doctor and the nurse. When our friends are sick, we put them in our cheeriest rooms, tread softly, smooth their beds tenderly, bring fruits and flowers, but often we omit to bring a *pleasant face*.

"Please, mamma, smile, smile!" cried a little four-year-old boy to his mother, as he lay upon his bed moaning with pain. It was the only thing that she could do to help him.

It rests the weary and cheers the sad, who find their strength renewed, and their hearts lightened, by a sight which reveals to them that the world is not all as sorrowful as their own sad lives.

The pleasant face makes home happy. The tired

father hurries as he nears the gate, thinking of its welcome. The busy mother smooths her wrinkled forehead when she sees it coming. The children find their work tedious, and their play lifeless in its absence.

What is it in a face that works such wonders? Not rosy cheeks, nor pretty features, though these are good to look upon. It is the spirit which lives behind them.

A kindly will, an intelligent mind, a generous soul, can transform the homeliest features, and shine from the darkest skin.

Look well at the people of your acquaintance, and you will soon find which faces please you the most.

Notice those whom you meet on the streets or in the cars. Contrast the fretful wrinkles, the turned down corners of the mouth, the sour expressions, the sly, deceitful glances of some, with the honest, peaceful, beaming looks of others, and remember that when they were babies they were all smooth and lovely alike.

What has made the difference? Their lives are written on their faces. Little by little, day by day, in lines so fine that no microscope could detect them, idle moments, selfish wishes, unkind thoughts, mean or cruel motives have printed the records that we hate to look upon, while high endeavor, loving effort, patient self-control have as silently marked the faces that we love.

Florence Nightingale, whose lovely face soothed so many sick and dying soldiers, and Hans Christian Anderson, around whom the children loved to throng, were not handsome, but they had pleasant faces.

To have a pleasant face is a duty to God, who gave us the powers which make it possible to all. It is a duty to others, whose lives it helps and brightens.

It is a duty to ourselves, because the silent effort which it costs forms a habit of self-control essential to those who would be good and true.

E. L. H.

You have not fulfilled every duty, unless you have fulfilled that of being pleasant.

CHARLES BUXTON.

March 19.

I WILL sing unto the Lord as long as I live ; my meditation of him shall be sweet.
I will be glad in the Lord.

LITTLE SUNBEAM.

OH, would you be a sunbeam
In this fair world of ours,
To give forth life and gladness,
And waken up the flowers ?
Do deeds of winning kindness
To dear ones, round your hearth ;
But think amidst your sweet home-love,
Of lonely ones on earth.

And in your loving mission
Let none forgotten be ;
Let insect, bird, and flower,
Be cared for tenderly ;
And so shall you be truly,
A little sunbeam bright,
To shine with perfect loveliness,
And fill your home with light.

ANON.

AND ye shall succor men ;
'T is nobleness to serve.
Help them who cannot help again ;
Beware from right to swerve.

EMERSON.

March 20.

KIND deeds of peace and love betray
Where'er the stream has found its way ;
But where they bloom not fresh and fair,
The stream has never wandered there.

DRUMMOND.

QUICKNESS to see what others feel,
And thoughts with nothing to conceal.

COVENTRY PATMORE.

Now, would you know what distinguishes her? A great heart, full to overflowing, and constant planning and devising for the comfort of others. She is ever secretly at some surprise for those she loves. Before you know it she has found out your tastes, your longings, your needs; and also before you know it, the skies seem to be dropping down all kinds of things for your pleasure and comfort. Cheerful, strong, full of hope,—what better companion could be found?

“You know we are all at our best with Ruth.”

“Yes ; but why?”

“I think it is because she perceives the best in us, and calls it into action by believing in it.”

ANON.



March 21.

A SOFT answer turneth away wrath, but grievous words stir up anger. — *Prov. xiv. 1.*

THE God of Heaven is pleased to see
A little family agree ;
And will not slight the praise they bring
When loving children join to sing.

For love and kindness please him more
Than if we give him all our store ;
And children here who dwell in love,
Are like his happy ones above.

The gentle child who tries to please,
That hates to quarrel, fret, and tease,
And would not say an angry word ;
That child is pleasing to the Lord.

Great God ! forgive whenever we
Forget thy will, and disagree ;
And grant that each of us may find
The sweet delight of being kind.

JANE TAYLOR.

KEEP watch on your words, my darling,
For words are wonderful things ;
They are sweet like the bee's fresh honey,
Like the bees they have terrible stings.

March 22.

HOW wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye ; and behold, a beam is in thine own eye ?

Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye ; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye. — *Matt.* vii. 5, 6.

It is the mistake of many who mean to be good people, that they aim to be happy themselves and improve others. Such generally fail in one or both. If

they would reverse the aim, and strive to improve themselves and make others happy, they would not only accomplish that, but would compass the other also.

M. L. B., from DAY UNTO DAY.

Do not look with pride on your virtues, but rather bring yourself to account for your faults. Take just one, the first that comes, — impatience, laziness, sulkiness, whatever it may be, — and attack it bravely.

GOLD DUST.



March 23.

NEVER retort with a sharp or angry word. It is the second word that makes the quarrel.

ANON.

GOD rights him who keeps silence.

PERSIAN.

FOR in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.

Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth. Even so the tongue is a little member and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! — *James iii. 3, 4, 5.*

DROP thy still dews of quietness,
Till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress,
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of thy peace.

WHITTIER.

March 24.

MY voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord ; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up. — *Ps. v. 3.*

THE CHILD IN THE MORNING.

Now I wake and ope my eyes,
For the sun is in the skies ;
He has left his kingly bed,
Clouds of gold and rosy red,
And the earth is full of light
Beaming from his eyes so bright.
Little eyes must open too,
Little folks have work to do :
I must dress me quick and neat,
Nice and clean from head to feet ;
Good cold water must not spare,
Brush my teeth and comb my hair ;
Then kneel down and slowly say —
Thinking not of work or play,
But with fixed and earnest thought —
That dear prayer our Saviour taught ;
Then think softly how to-day
I the Saviour can obey ;
How God's name can hallowed be,
And his will be done by me.
I must be a Christian child,
Gentle, patient, meek, and mild ;
Must be honest, simple, true,
In my words and actions too.
I must cheerfully obey,
Giving up my will and way ;
Must not always thinking be,
What is pleasantest to me ;
But must try kind things to do,
And make others happy too.
If a playmate treats me ill,
I must be forgiving still ;

I must learn my lessons well, —
Not my schoolmates to excel,
But because my heart's delight
Is in doing what is right;
And in all I do and say,
In my lessons and my play,
Must remember God can view
All I think and all I do, —
Glad that he can know I try;
Glad that children such as I,
In our feeble ways and small,
Can serve Him who loves us all.

IN life's small things be resolute and great
To keep thy muscle trained ; knowest thou when Fate
Thy measure takes, or when she 'll say to thee,
" I find thee worthy, do this deed for me ? "

LOWELL.

March 25.

IN the holy quiet of this hour, let us draw nigh to him who heareth prayer ; and let us remember that he listeneth more to our hearts than to our words. Let each of us bring an offering of penitence, if not of purity ; of love, if not of holiness ; of teachableness, if not of wisdom ; of devout obedience for the time to come, if not the fruits of well-doing in the time that is past. And may we obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

SERVICES FOR CONGREGATIONAL WORSHIP.

EVENING HYMN.

LORD, a happy child of thine,
Patient through the love of thee,
In the light, the life divine,
Lives and walks in liberty.

Leaning on thy tender care,
 Thou hast led my soul aright;
 Fervent was my morning prayer,
 Joyful is my song to-night.

O my Father, guardian true!
 All my life is thine to keep.
 At thy feet my work I do;
 In thine arms I fall asleep.

ANNA L. WARING.

WHEN he giveth quietness, who then can make trouble? — *Job xxxiv. 29.*



March 26.

IF I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there shall thy hand lead me and thy right hand shall hold me. — *Psa. cxxxix.*

PRESENCE OF GOD.

AMONG the deepest shades of night,
 Can there be one who sees my way?
 Yes; God is like a shining light,
 That turns the darkness into day.

When every eye around me sleeps,
 May I not sin without control?
 No; for a constant watch He keeps
 On every thought of every soul.

If I could find some place unknown,
 Where human feet had never trod,
 Yet there I could not be alone;
 On every side there would be God.

If, then, the Lord is always near,
 I'll think of him in all I do;
 And oh, how much I ought to fear,
 Since he both sees and loves me too!

March 27.

THE WILLING MIND.

WHATSOEVER thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might.

That is, with all the spirit and diligence you are capable of. If you are half-hearted or reluctant in your work, or lessons, or play, you will gain very little good from them. If you go to them feeling that you don't care for them, that you are going to do them because you are obliged, if you wish to have those around you see that you are working against your will, or if you join a play that is not your choice and make that apparent, you are losing most of the profit and pleasure that is to be found in them. Do not say you *can't* like a thing, and you *hate* to do it, and always shall, — but think, instead, there is always some kind of pleasure and satisfaction to be found in everything we ought to do, — the pleasure of doing it well, or of overcoming a difficulty, or of pleasing some one who will be glad to see you working conscientiously, or of saving some one else from having to do an unpleasant job, or at worst, there will be satisfaction when it is *done* if it is well done, and you have made a conquest over your spirit of reluctance. In play, too, if you join the game you did not vote for, because it will make it pleasanter for the others, and play with spirit and sympathy, you cannot help having some pleasure in it. And if you make it your rule to do so, the result will be that you will always be sought for and welcomed by your companions. Think over the children you know; do not you enjoy most those that are sympathetic and play with spirit, and seem to heartily enjoy everything, and are not ashamed to express their pleasure, and neither domineer nor sulk by themselves? Seek

to find the *sweetness* of Duty ; it is there, and can be found wherever there is any feeling that you *ought* to do a thing. The difference between the willing spirit and the reluctant one is like the difference between running down hill and climbing up ; the glad, willing heart that makes all duty sweet finds all things easier than the reluctant, unwilling child who drags back and finds everything uphill work.

This lesson is summed in a short and easy verse to remember, from " Mabel's Midsummer Day : " —

" 'T is good to make all duty sweet,
To be alert and kind,
'T is good, like little Mabel ;
To have a willing mind."

March 28.

MY Father, I thank thee for sleep,
For quiet and peaceable rest ;
I thank thee for stooping to keep
An infant from being distressed.

As long as thou seest it right,
That here upon earth I should stay,
I pray thee to guard me by night,
And help me to serve thee by day.

JANE TAYLOR.

He prayeth well who loveth well
Both man and bird and beast.
He prayeth best who loveth best
All things, both great and small ;
For the dear God who loveth us,
He made and loveth all.

S. T. COLERIDGE.

AND this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments : and his commandments are not grievous. —
1 *John* iv. 21 ; v. 3.

March 29.

LEARN to say kind and pleasant things whenever an opportunity offers.

Learn to speak in a gentle tone of voice.

IF you have a friend worth loving,
Love him, yes and let him know
That you love him ere life's evening
Tinge his brow with sunset glow ;
Why should good words ne'er be said
Of a friend till he be dead ?

ANON.

SPEAK not evil of one another. — *James* iv. 11.

TIME was when I believed that wrong
In others to detect
Was part of genius, and a gift
To cherish, not reject.

Now better taught by thee, O Lord !
This truth dawns on my mind, —
The best effect of heavenly light
Is earth's false eyes to blind.

Sweeten my bitter-thoughted heart
With charity like thine,
Till self shall be the only spot
On earth that does not shine.

March 30.

AT the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven ?

And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them,

And said, Verily, I say unto you, Except ye be converted and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me. — *Matt.* xviii. 1-4.

WHAT thou shalt to-day provide,
Let me as a child receive ;
What to-morrow may betide,
Calmly to thy wisdom leave.
'T is enough that thou wilt care ;
Why should I the burden bear ?

As a little child relies
On a care beyond his own ;
Knows he's neither strong nor wise,
Fears to stir a step alone ;
Let me thus with thee abide,
As my Father, Guard, and Guide !

JOHN NEWTON.

March 31.

WHATSOEVER things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, let us think on these things. — *Phil.* iv. 8.

THE comfort of having a friend may be taken away, but not the comfort of having had a friend.

THERE is no record left on earth
Save in the tablets of the heart,
Of the rich inherent worth,
Of the grace that on him shone.
Of eloquent lips, of joyful wit;
He could not frame a word unfit,
An act unworthy to be done;
Honor prompted every glance
Honor came and sat beside him.

EMERSON.

WAS ever eye did see that face,
Was ever ear did hear that tongue,
Was ever mind did mind her grace
That ever thought the travel long?
But eyes and ears and every thought
Were with the sweet perfection caught.

MATTHEW ROYDEN.

April 1.

TAKE heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you that in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father who is in heaven.

Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

And they brought young children to him, that he should put his hands on them and pray. And his disciples rebuked those that brought them.

But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them. Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God.

And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them. — *Mark* x. 14, 15.

WHEN the baby died
On every side
Swift angels came in shining, singing bands,
And bore the little one, with gentle hands,
Into the sunshine of the spirit lands.
And Christ the Shepherd said,
"Let them be led
In gardens nearest to the earth."
One mother weepeth over birth,
Another weepeth over death;
In vain all heaven answereth.
Laughs from the little ones may reach
Their ears, and teach
Them what, so blind with tears, they never saw, —
That of all life, all death, God's love is law.

H. H.

April 2.

BE ye kind to one another and tenderhearted. —
Ephes. iv. 32.

GOOD TEMPER.

SINCE trifles make the sum of human things,
 And half our misery from our foibles springs;
 Since life's best joys consist in peace and ease,
 And though but few can serve, yet all may please;
 Oh, let the ungentle spirit learn from hence,
 A small unkindness is a great offence!

HANNAH MORE.

I EXPECT to pass through this world but once; if, therefore, there be any kindness I can show, or any good thing I can do to any fellow human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.

MRS. HEGEMAN.



April 3.

THERE be many that say, Who will show us any good? Lord, lift up the light of thy countenance upon us.

Thou hast put gladness in my heart, more than in the time that their corn and their wine increased. — *Ps. vi. 6, 7.*

SOME murmur, when their sky is clear
 And wholly bright to view,
 If one small speck of dark appear
 In their great heaven of blue;

And some with thoughtful love are filled,
If but one streak of light,
One ray of God's good mercy, gild
The darkness of their night.

In palaces are hearts that ask,
In discontent and pride,
Why life is such a dreary task,
And all good things denied;
And hearts in poorest huts admire
How love has in their aid
(Love that not ever seems to tire)
Such rich provision made.

R. C. TRENCH.

April 4.

BEGIN the day with God!
He is thy sun and day;
His is the radiance of thy dawn,
To him address thy lay.

Cast every weight aside;
Do battle with each sin;
Fight with the faithless world without,
The faithless heart within.

Thy first transaction be
With God himself above;
So shall thy business prosper well,
And all the day be love.

HORATIUS BONAR.

PLACE thy delight in the Lord,
And he shall give the desires of thine heart.
Commit thy way unto the Lord,
Trust in him, and he will give thee success.
He will cause thy justice to shine like the light,
And thy righteousness like the noonday brightness,
Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him,
Cease from anger, give not way to wrath,
Be not provoked so as to do evil.

Ps. xxxvii. 4-8.

April 5.

WITH good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not unto men. — *Eph.* vi. 7.

HE that contemneth small things shall fall by little and little. — *Ecclesiasticus* xix. 1.

PUNCTUALITY is so important in the conduct of life, that perhaps I should not class it among the lesser morals. Some great man places it next to godliness. A perfectly true person cannot be unpunctual, therefore you can hardly be too particular on this point. If you make an appointment, keep it, if possible, to the minute. If you say, "I will come to-morrow at eleven," go at eleven, though to-morrow it may seem to you just as well to go at twelve. By being unpunctual, you defraud another of his time, his most precious possession.

Return what you borrow, at the precise time you promise to return it. Go to your schools punctually. Be punctual at church. When you go out, and promise to be at home at a certain hour, be there.

Answer a letter or a note punctually. Never be induced to put this off for a convenient time. Observe for yourself the inconveniences and disasters that come from this "putting off" habit.

If you maintain these rules in your childhood, you will be punctual in your business in after life; and on this your prosperity and reputation may depend.

MRS. MANNERS.

LET a man practise the minor virtues. How much of human life is lost in waiting! Let him not make his fellow-creatures wait. How many words and promises are promises of conversation! let his be words of fate.

EMERSON.

April 6.

LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?

He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.

He that sweareth to his own hurt and changeth not.
— *Ps.* xv. 1, 2, 4.

SIR WILLIAM NAPIER once in his walks met with a little girl five years old sobbing over a pitcher she had broken. She, in her innocence, asked him to mend it. He told her that he could not mend it, but that he would meet her trouble by giving her sixpence to buy a new one, if she would meet him at the same hour the next evening, as he had no money in his purse that day. When he returned home he found that there was an invitation waiting for him, which he particularly wished to accept. But he could not then have met the little girl at the time stated, and he gave up the invitation, saying, "I could not disappoint her, she trusted in me so implicitly." That was the true Christian English gentleman and soldier.

A. P. STANLEY.

AND tho' he promise to his loss
He makes his promise good.

TATE AND BRADY.

April 7.

ABHOR that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. — *Rom.* xii. 9.

CONSTANCY.

WHO is the honest man?
He that doth still and strongly good pursue;
To God, his neighbor, and himself most true.

Whom none can work or woo
To use in anything a trick or slight;
For above all things he abhors deceit, —
His words and works, and fashion too,
All of a piece; and all are clear and straight.

Who never melts or thaws
At close temptations. When the day is done,
His goodness sets not, but in dark can run.
The sun to others writeth laws,
And is their virtue; virtue is his sun.

HERBERT.

April 8.

SUNDAY MORNING.

WELCOME, welcome, quiet morning,
Welcome is this holy day;
Now the Sabbath morn, returning,
Shows a week has passed away.
Let us think how time is gliding:
Soon the longest life departs;
Nothing human is abiding,
Save the love of humble hearts.

Love to God, and to our neighbor,
Makes our purest happiness;
Vain the wish, the care, the labor,
Earth's poor trifles to possess.

Swift our life's vain dreams are passing ;
Like the startled dove they fly,
Or the clouds, each other chasing
Over yonder quiet sky.

Father, now one prayer we raise thee :
Give an humble grateful heart ;
Never let us cease to praise thee,
Never from thy fear depart.
Then, when years have gathered o'er us,
And the world is sunk in shade,
Heaven's bright realm will rise before us ;
There our treasure will be laid.

As soon as you awake in the morning, try and realize God stretching forth his hand toward you and saying : " Dost thou really desire that I should watch over thee to-day ? " and you lift up your hand toward this kind Father, and say to him : " Yes, yes, lead me, guide me, love me ; I will be very submissive ! "

Beneath God's protecting hand, is it possible that you can be sorrowful, fearful, unhappy ?

No ; God will allow no suffering, no trial above what you are able to bear.

Then pass through the day quietly and calmly, even as, when a little child, you had your mother always beside you.

You need only be careful about one thing, — never to displease God, and you will see how lovingly God will direct all that concerns you.

If your duty is hard, owing either to its difficulty or the distaste you feel towards it, lift your heart to God and say, " Lord help me ; " then go on with it, even though you seem to do it imperfectly.

April 9.

DWELL in the land which the Lord your God giveth you to inherit; he giveth you rest from all your enemies round about, so that ye dwell in safety. — *Deut.* xii. 10.

THE DAY OF LEE'S SURRENDER.

Bow down, dear Land, for thou hast found release!
 Thy God, in these distempered days,
 Hath taught thee the sure wisdom of his ways,
 And through thine enemies hath wrought thy peace!
 Bow down in prayer and praise!
 No poorest in thy borders but may now
 Lift to the juster skies a man's enfranchised brow.
 O Beautiful! my Country! ours once more!
 Smoothing thy gold of war-dishevelled hair
 O'er such sweet brows as never other wore,
 And letting thy set lips,
 Freed from wrath's pale eclipse,
 The rosy edges of their smile lay bare,
 What words divine of lover or of poet
 Could tell our love and make thee know it,
 Among the Nations bright beyond compare?
 What were our lives without thee?
 What all our lives to save thee?
 We reck not what we gave thee;
 We will not dare to doubt thee,
 But ask whatever else, and we will dare!

LOWELL.

April 10.

NELSON'S signal at the battle of Trafalgar ran thus: "ENGLAND EXPECTS THAT EVERY MAN WILL DO HIS DUTY." A cry of enthusiastic admiration burst from every deck as these words became legible.

"And now," exclaimed Nelson, as his ear caught the

acclamations with which his signal was received, "I can do no more. May the Almighty Disposer of all things decide the event according to his will and the justice of our cause. *I thank Him humbly for this great occasion of discharging my duty.*"

LAMARTINE.

NOT only for some task sublime,
Thy help do I implore ;
Not only at some solemn time,
Thy holy spirit pour !

But for each daily task of mine
I need thy quickening power ;
I need thy presence everywhere,
I need thee every hour.

Each action finds in thee its spring,
Each joy thy love makes bright,
Each footstep is thine ordering,
Each grief shines in thy light.

ANON.

ENTER thou into the joy of thy Lord. — *Matt.* xxv. 23.

April 11.

NOW condescend, all-loving King,
To bless this little throng,
And kindly listen while we sing
Our pleasant evening song.

Before thy sacred footstool see,
We bend in humble prayer,
A happy little family,
To ask thy tender care.

May we in safety sleep to-night,
From every danger free,
Because the darkness and the light
Are both alike to thee.

JANE TAYLOR.

I CRIED unto the Lord with my voice, and he heard me out of his holy hill.

I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the Lord sustained me. — *Ps.* iii. 4, 5.

The darkness and the light are both alike to thee. — *Ps.* cxxxix. 12.

April 12.

HAVE compassion one of another; love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous. — 1 *Peter* iii. 8.

WHAT is it, my young friends, that gives value to these small civilities? It is that they express kind-heartedness, that they show you free from that coarse selfishness that looks out for "number one." Remember always that the worth of manners consists in their being the sincere expression of the feelings. Like the dial of the watch, they should indicate that the work within is good and true.

I have cautioned you, my dear girls, against omitting any of the courtesies due from you. I entreat you much more earnestly to express in your manners that inner purity which is the charm of your sex, and essential to a woman. Children are rarely hypocrites, and seldom deceived in one another. If a girl inspires respect and confidence in a boy, that boy, grown a man, will respect women and show confidence in them. And, my dear boys, I beg you to treat girls as you would wish a sister whom you love to be treated by other boys. Avoid all personal freedoms. The virtue and happiness of life depends mainly on the relations of men and women. You cannot well imagine how much of your future welfare depends on your deportment and feelings to school-girls.

MRS. MANNERS.

LIFE is not so short but that there is always time enough for courtesy.

EMERSON.

April 13.

LET me tell you a story to show what I mean. A great painter was once employed to fresco the inner walls and ceiling of a church. As he painted, he would now and then step backward to see the effect of what he had done. Each time he went a little nearer the edge of the lofty scaffold, until he stood with but half a step between him and death, delighting in the work of his hands, thinking only what other and lovelier pictures he would make. A man, painting on the same scaffold, saw his danger, and, quick as thought, dashed a brush wet with paint against the wall, daubing and blotting out the fairest frescos there. The painter sprang forward in horror, and his life was saved. Sometimes the Father pours out what seems to us to be his wrath upon our pleasant pictures, but it is because he loves us too dearly to let us lose ourselves in a world that does not love him.

MY YOUTH UP.

No chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous; nevertheless, afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby. — *Heb. xii. 11.*

April 14.

14 APRIL 1865.

TO-NIGHT is the twelfth anniversary of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln by J. Wilkes Booth at Ford's Theatre, in Washington. As time elapses, the beauty of the martyr-President's life and principles shines out with ever increasing radiance. The sentiments of his second inaugural towards the South cannot be too often repeated. He said : —

“With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphans, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and a lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.”

I HAVE finished the work which thou gavest me to do. — *John xvii. 4.*

LIFE may be given in many ways,
And loyalty to Truth be sealed
As bravely in the closet as the field,
So bountiful is Fate ;
But then to stand beside her,
When craven churls deride her,
To front a lie in arms and not to yield,
This shows, methinks, God's plan
And measure of a stalwart man,
Limbed like the old heroic breeds,
Who stand self-poised on manhood's solid earth,
Not forced to frame excuses for his birth,
Fed from within with all the strength he needs,
Such was he our martyr-chief,
Whom late the nation he had led,
With ashes on her head,

Wept with the passion of an angry grief.
Here was the type of the true elder race,
And one of Plutarch's men talked with us face to face.
Our children shall behold his fame, —
The kindly earnest, brave, foreseeing man,
Sagacious, patient, dreading praise, not blame,
New birth of our new soil, the first American.

LOWELL.

April 15.

L YING lips are abomination to the Lord : but they
that deal truly are his delight. — *Prov.* xii. 22.

WHAT is honor? The poet Wordsworth asks this question, and now before I tell you what his answer is, I ask you to think what honor is, what you would consider honor in boys and girls. You all mean to be honorable men and women ; but are you honorable children? Honor is perfect honesty. Suppose a boy who is very civil and well-behaved to his parents, and to their guests and servants, while they are present, goes to school and on his way casts off his good manners and shouts saucily to the passers-by, uses rough and vulgar language when playing with the boys, thinking it manly, and while at school is impertinent to a teacher who is too gentle to punish him. Then he comes home and finds his parents are not there ; he is rude and noisy at the dinner-table, exciting the other children till all are rebellious, and behave as they know their parents would not allow for a minute ; they tease the waitress, and all feel uncomfortable. But as soon as the father comes home all is changed, the good manners are put on again like a clean apron. Is that an honorable child? Many children have one way of talking before grown people, but quite another in the street and the playground, and habitually use vulgar and profane expressions at play.

Is not that "eye-service as men-pleasers," not "doing the will of God from the heart?" Is it not wearing two faces? The truly honest child has but one code of manners; he is the same by night and by day.

He does not appear polite to those he fears, and rude to those he does not; but always respects himself too much to lower himself in his own eyes and in God's sight. He is too honest, too manly, to try to seem better than he is; he wishes to be just to himself, to the soul and conscience God gave him. Wordsworth says that honor —

"Is the finest sense
Of justice which the human mind can frame
Intent each lurking frailty to disclaim
And guard the way of life from all offence
Suffered or done."

April 16.

THE English papers tell a story of a sportsman who, after a day's shooting, left his game in the custody of his dogs, locking them up with it, and being called away on business was absent from home several days, forgetting all about his dogs and game. When he returned both animals had died of hunger, having refrained from touching the game.

HONOR — dearer than anything that could be gained or lost; very much dearer than mere life.

A GREAT EMERGENCY.

I COUNT this thing to be grandly true:
That a noble deed is a step toward God,
Lifting the soul from the common clod
To a purer air and a broader view.

J. G. HOLLAND.

April 17.

LET us not be weary in well doing ; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. — *Gal.* vi. 9.

SAINT AUGUSTINE ! well hast thou said,
That of our vices we can frame
A ladder, if we will but tread
Beneath our feet each deed of shame !

All common things, each day's events,
That with the hour begin and end,
Our pleasures and our discontents,
Are rounds by which we may ascend.

The heights by great men reached and kept
Were not attained by sudden flight,
But they, while their companions slept,
Were toiling upward in the night.

LONGFELLOW.

It was by improving the little events and opportunities of every day that men became great, and not by neglecting them for their own presumptuous fancies.

THE BLACKBIRD'S NEST.

April 18.

MADE haste and delayed not to keep thy commandments. — *Ps.* cxix. 60.

AWAKE, my soul ! and with the sun
Thy daily stage of duty run
Shake off dull sloth, and joyful rise
To pay thy morning sacrifice.

Thy precious time, misspent, redeem;
 Each present day thy last esteem;
 Improve thy talent with due care;
 For the great day thyself prepare.

In conversation be sincere;
 Keep conscience as the noontide clear;
 Think how the all-seeing God thy ways
 And all thy secret thoughts surveys.

Lord, I my vows to thee renew;
 Scatter my sins like morning dew;
 Guard my first springs of thought and will,
 And with thyself my spirit fill.

BISHOP KEN.

LIFE is a leaf of paper white
 Whereon each one of us may write
 His word or two, and then comes night.
 Greatly begin! though thou have time
 But for a line, be that sublime, —
 Not failure, but low aim, is crime.

LOWELL.

April 19.

OUR fathers trusted in thee: they trusted, and thou
 didst deliver them. — *Ps.* xxii. 4.

OF man for man the sacrifice,
 All that was theirs to give, they gave.
 The flowers that blossomed from their grave
 Have sown themselves beneath all skies.

WHITTIER.

By the rude bridge that arched the flood,
 Their flag to April's breeze unfurled,
 Here once the embattled farmers stood,
 And fired the shot heard round the world.

The foe long since in silence slept;
Alike the conqueror silent sleeps;
And Time the ruined bridge has swept
Down the dark stream which seaward creeps.

On this green bank, by this soft stream,
We set to-day a votive stone;
That memory may their deed redeem,
When, like our sires, our sons are gone.

Spirit that made those heroes dare
To die, and leave their children free,
Bid Time and Nature gently spare
The shaft we raise to them and thee.

EMERSON.

April 20.

MORNING HYMN.

HIS compassions fail not. They are new every morning. — *Lam.* iii. 22, 23.

O TIMELY happy, timely wise,
Hearts that with rising morn arise!
Eyes that the beam celestial view,
Which evermore makes all things new.

New every morning is the love
Our wakening and uprising prove;
Thro' sleep and darkness safely brought,
Restored to life and power and thought.

New mercies, each returning day,
Hover around us while we pray;
New perils past, new sins forgiven,
New thoughts of God, new hopes of heaven.

Old friends, old scenes, will lovelier be,
As more of heaven in each we see:
Some softening gleam of love and prayer
Shall dawn on every cross and care.

The trivial round, the common task,
Will furnish all we ought to ask, —
Room to deny ourselves, a road
To bring us daily nearer God.

Only, O Lord, in thy dear love
Fit us for perfect rest above ;
And help us, this and every day,
To live more nearly as we pray.

JOHN KEBLE, 1827.

No character of any value is formed without the discipline of individual rules, and . . . rules are of no use that are not held to against circumstances.

MRS. OVERTHEWAY'S REMEMBRANCES.

April 21.

NEITHER ought any, even in their playing and jesting, to give way to their anger, for it turns goodwill into hatred ; nor when they are disputing, for it turns a desire of knowing truth into contention ; nor when they sit in judgment, for it adds violence to authority ; nor when they are teaching, for it dulls the learner, and breeds in him a hatred of all learning. On the other hand, good temper doth remedy some things, put an ornament upon others and sweeten them ; and it wholly overcomes all anger and moroseness by gentleness.

PLUTARCH'S MORALS.

ANGRY words ! Oh, let them never
From the tongue unbridled slip ;
May the heart's best impulse ever
Check them ere they soil the lip.

Love is much too pure and holy,
Friendship is too sacred far,
For a moment's reckless folly
Thus to desolate and mar.

Angry words are lightly spoken;
Bitterest thoughts are rashly stirred;
Brightest links of life are broken
By a single angry word.

"Love one another," Thus saith the Saviour.
Children, obey the Father's blest command.
"Love each other," "Love each other,"
'T is the Father's blest command.



April 22.

OUT of the mouth of babes thou hast perfected praise.
— *Matt. xxi. 16.*

THERE was a little girl living with her old grandfather. She was a good child, but he was not a very good man, and one day when the little child came back from school he put in writing over the bed "*God is nowhere*;" for he did not believe in the good God, and he tried to make the little child believe the same. What did the little girl do? She had no eyes to see, no ears to hear what her grandfather tried to teach her. She was very small, — she could only read words of one syllable at the time; she rose above the bad meaning which he tried to put into her mind; she rose as we ought all to rise, above the temptation of our time; she rose into a higher and better world. She rose because her little mind could not do otherwise; and she read the words, not "*God is nowhere*," but "*God is now here*." That is what we all should strive to do. Out of words which

have no sense, or which have bad sense, our eyes, our minds, ought to be able to read a better sense. The old grandfather was touched, and made serious, and we ought all of us to be made serious in like manner by the innocent questions and answers of our little children.

GOD IS NOW HERE.

God is now, at this moment, watching over them and us. God is here in this very Abbey, watching over the little children here assembled. God is here, in your homes, in your play, in your prayers listening to you, as He is in this church, and he says to each one of us, "*Talitha cumi.*" My little lamb, rise, mount up, be better this year than you were last year. Mount up, become better and wiser; mount up, rise up, as if you are climbing a long ladder; mount up, rise up, as if you are climbing a high mountain, and then you will be able to read those words, "*God is nowhere,*" in their truest sense. They mean that God is in no particular place. That is true; but it is not the whole truth, — it is only half the truth, or, rather, it is, when taken by itself, the reverse of the truth. But when we make it "*God is now here,*" it becomes a great truth, for it tells us that it is because God is in no particular place, therefore he is in all places. God is now here, for God is always everywhere, — your help in ages past, your hope in years to come.

A. P. STANLEY.

April 23.

JESUS OUR LEADER.

FEEBLE, helpless, how shall I
Learn to live and learn to die?
Who, O God, my guide shall be?
Who shall lead thy child to thee?

Blessed Father, gracious One,
Thou hast sent thy holy Son,
He will give the light I need;
He my trembling steps will lead.

Through this world, uncertain, dim,
Let me ever lean on him;
From his precepts wisdom draw,
Make his life my solemn law.

Thus in deed and thought and word,
Led by Jesus Christ the Lord,
In my weakness, thus shall I
Learn to live, and learn to die, —

Learn to live in peace and love,
Like the perfect ones above;
Learn to die without a fear,
Feeling thee, my Father, near.

WILLIAM HENRY FURNESS.

THAT ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend what is its breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. — *Ephes.* iii. 17-19.

To interpret Christ, it needs Christ in the heart. The teachings of the Spirit can be apprehended only by the same Spirit that gave them forth.

EMERSON.

April 24.

BE thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. — *Rev. ii. 10.*

BETTER DEATHE THAN FALSE OF FAYTHE.

A TRUE STORY.

"PLEASE buy my matches — only a penny;
Do take just one of the boxes, I pray;
My little brother and I have n't any
Breakfast or dinner this cold winter day."

"No! run away!" I cried, vexed by persistence;
But looking down, I was touched by the face,
Patient, and honest, and brave in resistance
Of the dangers and sorrows which yet left a trace.

"Stay, I'll take two — no, I've only a shilling."
"Please let me have it, for change I will run."
"There, I will trust you;" and only too willing,
Off darted Sandy; I wait in the sun.

But as time passes, my friend, with a laugh,
Says, "You won't see little Sandy again,
Spite his good face; you're too trusting by half.
If your tenpence comes back to you, let me know when!"

I was a stranger that day in the city,
And at my inn when my business was done,
There, a small laddie was waiting to see me.
"Sir, was it you who bid Sandy to run

"And bring you the tenpence he owed from your shilling?
Here is the sixpence, but fourpence was lost
When the horse knocked down my poor brother Sandy, —
The carriage ran over him, just where he crossed.

"He sent me to bring you the money; he's sorry
He could n't send all, but he hopes you'll forgive."
"Come, I'll go with you, I must see Sandy;
Is he much hurt? Show me, where do you live?"

Laid on some shavings, I found faithful Sandy,
Hurt unto death, and his brave heart was bent
On saving his honour unstained, and his longing
To cherish his poor little Rob, whom he sent

To keep faith with me. Yes, I saw my young hero
Die all content with a smile of calm joy.
He had kept faith, and he passed on his journey
Leaving all care behind him, and Rob is my boy!

April 25.

LOVE is the fulfilling of the law. — *Rom. xiii. 10.*

THERE is not any virtue the exercise of which, even momentarily, will not impress a new fairness upon the features; neither on them only, but on the whole body. All the movements and gestures, however slight, are different in their modes according to the mind that governs them; and on the gentleness and decision of just feeling, there follows a grace of action, and through continuance of this a grace of form, which by no discipline may be taught or attained.

THERE is no beautifier of complexion or form or behavior, like the wish to scatter joy, and not pain, around us.

EMERSON.

SHE doeth little kindnesses
Which most leave undone or despise;
For naught that sets one heart at ease,
And giveth happiness or peace
Is low esteemed in her eyes.
Blessing she is; God made her so,
And deeds of week-day holiness
Fall from her noiseless as the snow,
Nor hath she ever chanced to know
That aught were easier than to bless.

LOWELL.

April 26.

IF you want to be miserable, think about yourself,
about what you want, what you like, what respect
people ought to pay you, and what people think of you.

KINGSLEY.

WHEN I cannot have my way,
I must no ill-will display.
But must learn to bend my will,
And be kind and gentle still.

Pride and anger I must shun,
Nor be rude to any one ;
Evil tempers must not rise,
To offend God's holy eyes.

Father, like thine own dear Son,
I would be a lowly one,
Ever gentle, patient, kind ;
Clothe me with a humble mind.

MY OWN LITTLE HYMN-BOOK.

THINK it the first of virtues to restrain the tongue ; he
approaches nearest to a god who knows when it is best
to be silent.

CATO.

God rights him who keeps silence.

PERSIAN.

WHAT ! never speak one evil word,
Or rash, or idle, or unkind !
Oh, how shall I, most gracious Lord,
This mark of true perfection find ?

C. WESLEY.

April 27.

THE path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.
— *Prov.* iv. 18.

As the bird trims her to the gale,
I trim myself to the storm of time.
I man the rudder, reef the sail,
Obey the voice at eve obeyed at prime;
Lowly, faithful, banish fear!
Right onward drive unharmed;
The port, well worth the cruise, is near,
And every wave is charmed.

EMERSON.

April 28.

WE must learn to adorn every day with sacrifices.
Good manners are made up of petty sacrifices.

EMERSON.

I HAVE seen manners that make a similar impression with personal beauty, and in memorable experiences they are suddenly better than beauty.

EMERSON.

THE self-control that puts aside its own preferences, and seems pleased, is not hypocrisy; it is the exchangeable silver coin of society, without which intercourse would become rough and snappish. It is not sufficient to stop at being good; advance must be made to fine manners.

MRS. K. G. WELLS.

PLEASANT words are as a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and health to the bones. — *Prov.* xvi. 24.

April 29.

THE LORD'S PRAYER.

BUT thou when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret ; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

AFTER this manner therefore pray ye : Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil : for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

THIS prayer keeps God daily before us as "our Father ;" teaches us to hallow his name in speech and work, and to bring the kingdom of God here and now. The forgiving love of God we nightly pray for shall remind us that the forgiveness we receive is not ours to hold, but to pass on to our brother man, even till seventy times seven. Prayer is the key to hidden riches and strength which no other key will unlock.

What would tempted ones do without it? The spirit of our own prayer will bring of itself deliverance from the power of evil. The Christian prays a perpetual prayer, not only on knees, but with unwearied feet, tireless hands, sweet smile.

No life of nobleness was ever lived without some personal knowledge of the presence-chamber of the Great All-Father. Let us live in the spirit of this prayer. It contains a depth of wisdom that still feeds the world's best thought.

W. P. TILDEN.

PRAYER is the simplest form of speech
That infant lips can try;
Prayer the sublimest strains that reach
The Majesty on high.

JAMES MONTGOMERY.

April 30.

"O GIVE THANKS UNTO THE LORD, FOR HE IS GOOD."

O THANK the Lord, for he is kind,
Come little one, thy praises bring;
Wake up the love of thy young mind,
And with thine heart his goodness sing;
What hath he done, dear child, for thee?
Look round thee, and within, and see.

He gave that happy health of thine,
Th' untiring strength of every limb;
He bade thy days so brightly shine,
Thy nights of safety come from him;
And all the joy thy spirit feels,
Thy playfulness, thy merry peals.

Art thou an orphan, left forlorn,
With none to comfort or to guide!
No, — from the moment thou wast born,
Dear parents have thy wants supplied:
He gave them, thy supports to be,
Gave all who love and cherish thee.

O thank the Lord, for he is kind;
Forget not thou his watchful care,
But up to heaven raise thy mind,
And love thine unseen Father there;
Then, show thy love, in love's best way,
First learn his will, and then obey.

JANE TAYLOR.

May 1.

FOR lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone.
The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the
singing of birds is come. — *Song of Solomon* ii. 11, 12.

HE is great who confers the most benefits. He is
base — and that is the one base thing in the universe — to
receive favors and render none.

EMERSON.

WHAT flower blooms sweeter than a holy thought
Or star shines half so bright as a good deed?



May 2.

THE SPRING MORNING.

I.

IT is spring! it is morning! how happy I feel!
The sun is not up very high,
The warm rain has fallen on meadow and hill,
Around me the soft breezes sigh.

II.

Many blossoms have opened since yesterday morn,
The cherry-trees now are all white,
Three violets last night in my garden were born. —
Ah, how my heart leaped at the sight.

III.

How the spring birds are singing high up in the trees!
The bees seek the blossoms so white,
The hyacinth odor is on the soft breeze;
Ah me! I could shout with delight.

IV.

See, the soft clouds are sailing across the wide sky,
How silently onwards they go!
I see the sheep feeding, the lambs leaping high
O'er the bank where the brook winds so slow.

V.

And I must go down there where slyly creeps by,
The brook at the foot of the hill.
I must run, I must leap, and I wish I could fly;
I'm so happy I cannot keep still.

VI.

By this pretty green hillside it softly winds round,
So softly no sound can be heard;
But there, o'er the stones like the deer doth it bound,
And merrily trills like a bird.

VII.

And how gracefully waving the willow boughs bend,
And far downward drooping they seem
The water to kiss while in showers they send
Their blossoms to float on the stream.

VIII.

Each and all seem so happy I scarcely can say
Which thing I should like best to do,
To float with the flowers on the stream far away,
Or swing, yellow beetles, like you,

IX.

On the boughs of the willow, or leap like the frog
Down under the water so clear,
Or bask like the turtle that's crept from the bog,
By the brookside to sun himself here,

X.

Or go with the woolly-white clouds that float through
The heaven, or sit on the trees,
Mid budding boughs singing as birds love to do,
Or buzz in the flowers like the bees.

XI.

But I cannot do e'en like beetle or bee,
Nor float on the clouds soft and blue,
Nor swim in the streamlets, nor sit in the tree
And sing as the merry birds do.

XII.

But the bright yellow beetle knows nought of the bee,
The bee he knows nothing of him;
The frog does not care for the bird on the tree,
And bird does not see the frog swim.

XIII.

The turtle that basks, and the lambkins that leap
They never look up at the sky,
The clouds softly sailing, the willows that weep,
Have never a charm for their eye.

XIV.

But I can find pleasure in all that I view,
How humble my heart ought to be;
For I have been told, and I feel it is true,
That the world was created for me.

ANN AUGUSTA GRAY.



May 3.

I KNOW that thou canst do everything, and no thought
is withholden from thee. — *Job* xlii. 2.

SAYING PRAYERS.

To say my prayers is not to pray,
Unless I mean the things I say,
Unless I think to whom I speak,
And with my heart his favor seek.

In prayer we speak to God above,
We seek the blessed Saviour's love
We ask for pardon of our sin,
And grace to make us pure within.

My infant lips were early taught
To say "Our Father," as I ought;
And every morn and every night,
To use my daily prayers is right.

But oh, if I am found to smile,
Or play, or look about the while,
Or think vain thoughts, the Lord will see,
And how can he be pleased with me?

Then let me, when I kneel to pray,
Not only mind the words I say,
But also strive, with earnest care,
To let my heart go with my prayer.

MY OWN LITTLE HYMN BOOK.



May 4.

A RIGHTEOUS man regardeth the life of his beast;
but the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel. —
Prov. xii. 10.

I WOULD not enter on my list of friends,
Though graced with polished manners and fine sense,
Yet wanting sensibility, the man
Who needlessly sets foot upon a worm.
An inadvertent step may crush the snail
That crawls at evening in the public path;
But he that has humanity, forewarned,
Will tread aside and let the reptile live.

COWPER.

Who taught the bird to build her nest
Of softest wool and hay and moss?
Who taught her how to weave it best,
And lay the tiny twigs across?

Who taught the busy bee to fly
Among the sweetest herbs and flowers;
And lay her store of honey by,
Providing food for winter hours?

Who taught the little ant the way
Her narrow hole so well to bore?
And through the pleasant summer day,
To gather up her winter's store?

'T was God that taught them all the way,
And gave these little creatures skill;
And teaches children, if they pray,
To know and do his holy will.

MY OWN LITTLE HYMN BOOK.

May 5.

DARE to be true; nothing can need a lie. A fault
which needs it most grows two thereby.

HERBERT.

TRUTH should be the first lesson of the child and the
last aspiration of manhood.

MRS. EWING.

WOULDST thou be a true man,
Thou must be quick and bold
When the right is to be done,
The truth is to be told;
Wearing no friendlike smile
When the heart is not, within;
Making no truce with fraud and guile,
No compromise with sin.

May 6.

THE blue sky is the temple's arch,
Its transept earth and air,
The music of its starry march
The chorus of a prayer.

So Nature keeps the reverent frame
With which her years began,
And all her signs and voices shame
The prayerless heart of man.

WHITTIER.

COME, let us go forth into the fields ; let us see how the flowers spring ; let us listen to the warbling of the birds, and sport ourselves upon the new grass.

The winter is over and gone, the buds come out upon the trees, the crimson blossoms of the peach and the nectarine are seen, and the green leaves sprout.

The hedges are tufted with borders of primroses, and yellow cowslips that hang down their heads ; and the blue violet lies hid beneath the shade.

The young goslings are running upon the green ; they are just hatched, their bodies are covered with yellow down ; the old ones hiss with anger if any one comes near.

The hen sits on her nest of straw ; she watches patiently the full time, then she carefully breaks the shell, and the young chickens come out.

The lambs just dropped are in the field ; they totter by the side of their dams, their young limbs hardly support their weight. If you fall, little lambs, you will not be hurt ; there is spread under you a carpet of soft grass ; it is spread on purpose to receive you.

The butterflies flutter from bush to bush and open their wings to the warm sun.

The young animals of every kind are sporting about, they feel themselves happy, they are glad to be alive, — they thank Him that hath made them alive.

They thank him in their hearts, but we can thank him with our tongues; we are better than they, and can praise him better.

The birds can warble and the young lambs can bleat, but we can open our lips in his praise, we can speak of all his goodness.

Therefore we will thank him for ourselves, and we will thank him for those that cannot speak.

Trees that blossom, and little lambs that skip about, if you could you would say how good he is; but you are dumb, we will say it for you.

We will not offer you in sacrifice, but we will offer sacrifice for you; on every hill and on every green field, we will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and the incense of praise.

MRS. BARBAULD.

May 7.

GOD who to our eyes hath given
Light once more,
Which o'er glowing earth and heaven
Beauty doth pour:
May thy spirit still watch o'er us,
No deceitful sin allure us,
Spread our duty plain before us.
Through the day;
And when life's last day is done
May we calmly, like the sun,
Rejoicing that our race is run,
With our guerdon sought and won,
Pass away.

RULES FOR THE GOOD LIFE.

To make duty, or the will of God, our first object, and the only title to happiness.

To delay and neglect nothing that we ought to do.

To be kind to all, willing to please and to be pleased, — not out of good-nature only, but from a sense of duty.

To be modest and willing to submit to correction and censure.

To inflict no pain on any creature for the sake of a pleasure.

To shrink from no pain which it is needful that we should bear.

To respect the rights of others as equally important with our own.

CHILD'S BOOK OF RELIGION.

May 8.

WHO blesses others in his daily deeds,
Will find the healing that his spirit needs;
For every flower in others' pathway strewn
Confers its fragrant beauty on our own.

WHAT is charity? It is love. That love which prompts any good act is charity, — giving water to the thirsty; putting a wanderer in the right path; removing thorns and stones from the road; smiling in your brother's face. Our true wealth hereafter is the good we do in this world. When one dies men ask what property he left behind him; but angels ask what kind deeds he sent before.

CHILD'S BOOK OF RELIGION.

CHARITY suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil ;

Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth ;

Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. — 1 *Cor.* xiii. 4, 5, 6, 7.



May 9.

IT is told of Leonard Fell, a Quaker, that when traveling alone, a highwayman demanded his money, which was at once given up. The man next required his horse, and Leonard, dismounting, let him take that also. But before the robber rode away the Quaker solemnly warned him of the evil course he was pursuing. The highwayman in reply threatened to blow out his brains. "Though I would not give my life for my money or my horse," replied the other, "I would give it to save thy soul." This answer so affected the robber that he declared he would have neither the money nor the horse of such a man, and returned both to their astonished owner.

FOR I will no more do thee harm, because my soul was precious in thine eyes this day : behold, I have played the fool, and have erred exceedingly. — 1 *Sam.* xxvi. 21.

As one lamp lights another, nor grows less,
So nobleness enkindleth nobleness.

LOWELL.

WHO is thy neighbor ? he whom thou
Hast power to aid or bless.

W. B. O. PEABODY.

May 10.

THOU shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honor the face of the old man, and fear thy God. — *Lev. xix. 32.*

OLD AGE.

MODERATE your voices, your tones, your steps, in the presence of the aged. Like young children they are startled, distressed, or confused, by sudden and boisterous movements. Do not talk too much about taking railway trains at special hours or moments. There were no railroads when the old were young, and the thought of any one's missing a train fills them with anxiety. Avoid all subjects of conversation involving a sense of responsibility. You may think it absurd that they feel any, but it is just that part of their brains that has been overtaxed, and they cannot help it.

When all positive enjoyment is over for the aged, there is a reflected happiness in watching the life, the joys, the enthusiasm of youth. Go to your grandmother or grandfather or old friend with your little plans and confidences; incite them to play games with you, such as logomachy, euchre, etc. They delight in your including them in such things. They are filled with hope in your company; they look forward to lives that may be better than their own, and feel a property in the experiences of the young.

Ask your elders to tell you their histories. You will find incidents of heroism or patience or disinterested love that will make your hearts glow, and records of times differing from the present, calling for other standards and powers; and this knowledge will make you understand them better.

S. I. L.

May 11.

IF we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. — 1 *John* i. 9.

I HOPE you will be a brave man. A brave man is never ashamed to confess a fault ; he has courage to say : " I ask your pardon ; I am sorry for what I have done ; I will do my best for the time to come." It is cowards who are afraid to look back and face their faults, and so try to hide and deny them.

M. L. CHARLESWORTH.

A MAN should never be ashamed to own that he has been in the wrong, which is but saying in other words that he is wiser to-day than he was yesterday.

POPE.

May 12.

AS we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men. — *Gal.* vi. 10.

CHARITY.

BE good-natured, benevolent ; keep up a cheerful expression of countenance even when alone.

That clumsiness, those brusque, rude manners, let them pass without notice.

When wishes contrary to your own prevail, yield without ill-humor, or even showing your effort ; you will give pleasure, and thus be pleased yourself.

GOLD DUST.

LOVE and kindness we may measure,
By this simple rule alone :
Do we mind our neighbor's pleasure,
Just as if it were our own ?

JANE TAYLOR.

May 13.

THAT which I see not, teach thou me. — *Job xxxiv.*
32.

THE CHILDREN'S CREED.

WE must teach our children that beyond what they feel and see and touch there is something better and greater, which they can neither feel nor see nor touch. Goodness, kindness to one another, unselfishness, fairness, and uprightness, — these are the best things in all the world. It is true that goodness and kindness have no faces that we can kiss, no hands that we can clasp ; but these are certainly close to us, both in the midst of our work and our play. And this goodness and kindness which, except in outward acts, we cannot see, is something which existed before we were born. It is from this that we have all the pleasant things of this world ; the flowers, the sunshine, the moonlight, — all these were given us by some great kindness and goodness which we have never seen at all. And this goodness and love are the Great Power out of which all things come, which we call by the name of God. And because God is so much above us and so good to us we call him by the name which is most dear to us.

When a father goes away from his home, still his children know that he is somewhere, though they cannot see him, and they know what to do in order to please him. So it is with the great unseen Father of us all. Let us then teach our children that God is Goodness and Justice ; that the rules which he has laid down for the government of the world are his will and wish for us ; even frost and cold, even sickness and pain, are for our good, and we must trust that he has some good reason for it, — perhaps to make us strong and brave and healthy.

GOD loves not the sadness of fear and distrust ;
Oh, serve him with gladness, — the Loving and Just !
His bounty is tender, his being is love,
His smile fills with splendor the blue arch above.

May 14.

BLESSED are the pure in heart for they shall see
God. — *Matt.* v. 8.

IT is God that girdeth me with strength, and maketh
my way plain. — *Ps.* xviii. 32.

HE that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also
in much. — *Luke* xvi. 10.

YET on the nimble air benign,
Speed nimbler messages,
That waft the breath of grace divine
To hearts in sloth and ease.
So nigh is grandeur to our dust,
So near is God to man,
When Duty whispers low, Thou must,
The youth replies, I can.

EMERSON.

THY word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto
my path. — *Ps.* cxix. 105.

PROCRASTINATION, delay, was the constitutional evil
that most severely exercised him. But so far had his
good purpose triumphed over this enemy that the very
opposite was the most prominent feature in his character,
and no one could be with him without remarking the
quickness with which he hastened to do each thing for
which he was responsible.

May 15.

THE LILY OF THE VALLEY.

COME, my love, and do not spurn
From a little flower to learn;
Let your temper be as sweet
As the lily at your feet;
Be as gentle, be as mild,
Be a modest, humble child.

'T is not beauty that we prize;
Like a summer's flower it dies;
But humility will last
Fair and sweet when beauty's past,
And the Saviour from above
Views a humble child with love.

JANE TAYLOR.

GOD resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. — 1 *Peter* v. 5.

BE not wise in thine own eyes; fear the Lord and depart from evil. — *Prov.* iii. 7.

May 16.

HOW doth the little busy bee,
Improve each shining hour,
And gather honey all the day
From every opening flower.

How skilfully she builds her cell!
How neat she spreads the wax!
And labors hard to store it well
With the sweet food she makes.

In works of labor or of skill,
I would be busy too ;
For Satan finds some mischief still
For idle hands to do.

In books, or work, or healthful play,
Let my first years be past ;
That I may give for every day
Some good account at last.

ISAAC WATTS.

USE well the moment ; what the hour
Brings for thy use is in thy power ;
And what thou best canst understand
Is just the thing lies nearest to thy hand.

GOETHE.

May 17.

OVER AND OVER AGAIN.

OVER and over again,
No matter which way I turn,
I always find in the book of life
Some lesson I have to learn.
I must take my turn at the mill ;
I must grind out the golden grain ;
I must work at my task with a resolute will,
Over and over again.

We cannot measure the need
Of even the tiniest flower,
Nor check the flow of the golden strands
That run through a single hour.
But the morning dews must fall ;
And the sun and the summer rain
Must do their part, and perform it all
Over and over again.

Over and over again,
The brook through the meadow flows;
And over and over again
The ponderous mill-wheel goes.
Once doing will not suffice,
Though doing be not in vain;
And a blessing, failing us once or twice,
May come if we try again.

The path that has once been trod,
Is never so rough to the feet;
And the lesson we once have learned
Is never so hard to repeat.
Though sorrowful tears may fall,
And the heart to its depth be driven
With storms and tempest, we need them all
To render us meet for heaven.

CHILD'S BOOK OF RELIGION.

By faithful habit, you can make that which was at first hard come to be after a while less difficult, then easy, and, perhaps, at last natural and delightful.

Take, for instance, a boy who is very conscientious. He is quick to choose between right and wrong, but he is not generous by nature. He knows the value of his possessions and is inclined to hold them tight. But his mother trains him to share his good things with others. She educates him through imagination: "Think, if you were in your brother's place, how you would feel." And, by degrees, the disposition to share gets to be natural to him, and the grasping boy grows into a bountiful man, whose joy is in giving. This process by which generosity is grafted into the boy's nature comes under what we call the law of habit, by doing the generous thing over and over again.

MERRIAM.

May 18.

FILL up the time with what will last ;
Buy up the moments as they go.

BONAR.

It is astonishing that any one can squander away in absolute idleness one single moment of that small portion of time which is allotted to us in this world. Know the true value of time. Snatch, seize, and enjoy every moment of it.

LORD CHESTERFIELD.

WE are but minutes, little things, —
Each one furnished with sixty wings,
With which we fly on our unseen track ;
And not a minute ever comes back.

We are but minutes. Each one bears
A little burden of joys and cares ;
Take patiently the minutes of pain ;
The worst of minutes cannot remain.

We are but minutes. When we bring
A few of the drops from Pleasure's spring,
Taste their sweetness while yet ye may ;
It takes but a minute to fly away.

We are but minutes ; use us well ;
For how we are used, we must one day tell.
Who uses minutes, has hours to use ;
Who loses minutes, whole years must lose.

CHILD'S BOOK OF RELIGION.



May 19.

GOD SEES US ALWAYS.

I 'M not too young for God to see,
He knows my name and nature too,
And all day long he looks at me,
And sees my actions through and through.

He listens to the words I say,
He knows the thoughts I have within,
And whether I 'm at work or play,
He 's sure to see it if I sin.

Thus when I want to do amiss
However pleasant it may be,
I 'll always try to think of this :
I 'm not too young for God to see.

MY OWN LITTLE HYMN-BOOK.

Do good works unseen of men, without hope of reward.

MRS. EWING.



May 20.

COME, let us walk abroad ; let us talk of the works of God. Take up a handful of sand ; number the grains of it ; tell them one by one into your lap. Try if you can count the blades of grass in the field, or the leaves on the trees.

You cannot count them, they are innumerable ; much more the things which God has made.

The fir groweth on the high mountain, and the grey willow bends above the stream.

The thistle is armed with sharp prickles, the mallow is soft and woolly.

The hop layeth hold with her tendrils, and claspeth the tall pole ; the oak hath firm root in the ground, and resisteth the winter storm.

The daisy enamelleth the meadows, and groweth beneath the foot of the passenger.

The tulip asketh a rich soil, and the careful hand of the gardener.

The iris and the reed spring up in the marsh ; the rich grass covereth the meadows ; and the purple heath-flower enliveneth the waste ground.

The water-lilies grow beneath the stream, their broad leaves float on the surface of the water ; the wall-flower takes root in the hard stone, and spreads its fragrance among broken ruins.

Every leaf is of a different form ; every plant hath a separate inhabitant.

Look at the thorns that are white with blossoms, and the flowers that cover the fields, and the plants that are trodden in the green path. The hand of man hath not scattered the seeds from his hand, nor the gardener digged a place for them with his spade.

Some grow on steep rocks, where no man can climb ; in shaking bogs, and deep forests, and desert islands ; they spring up everywhere, and cover the bosom of the whole earth.

Who causeth them to grow everywhere, and bloweth the seeds about in winds, and mixeth them with the mould, and watereth them with soft rains, and cherisheth them with dews ? Who fanneth them with the pure breath of heaven, and giveth them colors and smells, and spreadeth out their thin, transparent leaves ?

How doth the rose draw its crimson from the dark brown earth, or the lily its shining white ? How can a small seed contain a plant ? How doth every plant know its season to put forth ? They are marshalled in order ; each one knoweth his place, and standeth up in his own rank.

The snowdrop and the primrose make haste to lift their heads above the ground. When the spring cometh they say, "Here we are." The carnation waiteth for the full strength of the year ; and the hardy laurustinus cheereth the winter months.

Every plant produceth its like. An ear of corn will

not grow from an acorn ; nor will a grapestone produce cherries ; but every one springeth from its proper seed.

Who preserveth them alive through the cold winter, when the snow is on the ground, and the sharp frost bites on the plain ? Who soweth a small seed, and a little warmth in the bosom of the earth, and causeth them to spring up afresh, and sap to rise through the hard fibres ?

The trees are withered, naked and bare ; they are like dry bones.

Who breathed on them with the breath of spring, and they are covered with verdure, and green leaves sprout from the dead wood ?

Lo, these are a part of His works ; and a little portion of his wonders.

There is little need that I should tell you of God, for everything speaks of him.

Every field is like an open book ; every painted flower hath a lesson written on its leaves.

Every murmuring brook hath a tongue ; a voice is in every whispering wind. They all speak of Him who made them ; they all tell us he is very good.

We cannot see God, for he is invisible ; but we can see his works, and worship his footsteps in the green sod. They that know the most, will praise God the best ; but which of us can number half his works ?

MRS. BARBAULD.

May 21.

THERE hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to men ; but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able ; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. — 1 *Cor.* x. 13.

BE content with such things as ye have ; for He hath said, I will never leave thee nor forsake thee.

So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper and I will not fear what man will do unto me. — *Hebrews* xiii. 56.

JUDGED by the standards of the mass,
This little thing is not a sin ;
But how when brought to that sternest court,
The temple of your mind within ?
There "better" will not satisfy,
And this criterion lies behind :
Do you in this small thing subserve
The highest interests of mankind ?

I AM thankful for small mercies. I compared notes with one of my friends who expects everything of the universe, and is disappointed when anything is less than the best ; and I found that I begin at the other extreme, expecting nothing, and am always full of thanks for moderate goods. If we will take the good we find, asking no questions, we shall have heaping measures.

EMERSON.



May 22.

'T WAS one of the charmèd days,
When the genius of God doth flow ;
The wind may alter twenty ways,
A tempest cannot blow ;
It may blow north, it still is warm ;
Or south, it still is clear ;
Or east, it smells like a clover-farm ;
Or west, no thunder fear.

EMERSON.

O GOD, I thank thee for each sight
Of beauty that thy hand doth give, —
For sunny skies, and air and light;
O God, I thank thee that I live.

That life I consecrate to thee;
And ever as the day is born,
On wings of joy my soul would flee
To thank thee for another morn.

THOU wilt show me the path of life : in thy presence
is fulness of joy ; at thy right hand are pleasures forever-
more. — *Ps.* xvi. 11.

May 23.

WHEN a little boy in petticoats in my fourth year, one fine day in spring my father led me by the hand to a distant part of the farm, but soon sent me home alone. On the way I had to pass a little "pond-hole" then spreading its waters wide ; a rhodora in full bloom—a rare flower in my neighborhood, and which grew only in that locality—attracted my attention and drew me to the spot. I saw a little spotted tortoise sunning himself in the shallow water at the root of the flaming shrub. I lifted the stick I had in my hand to strike the harmless reptile ; for, though I had never killed any creature, yet I had seen other boys out of sport destroy birds, squirrels, and the like, and I felt a disposition to follow their wicked example. But all at once something checked my little arm, and a voice within me said, clear and loud, "It is wrong !" I held my uplifted stick in wonder at the new emotion, — the consciousness of an involuntary but inward check upon my actions, — till the tortoise and the rhodora both van-

ished from my sight. I hastened home and told the tale to my mother, and asked what was it that told me it was wrong? She wiped a tear from her eye with her apron, and taking me in her arms, said: "Some men call it conscience, but I prefer to call it the voice of God in the soul of man. If you listen and obey it, then it will speak clearer and clearer, and always guide you right; but if you turn a deaf ear or disobey, then it will fade out little by little, and leave you all in the dark and without a guide. Your life depends on heeding this little voice."

I went off to wonder and think it over in my poor childish way. But I am sure no event in my life has made so deep and lasting impression on me.

THEODORE PARKER.

It was the voice of God that spake
In silence to thy silent heart,
And bade each worthier thought awake.

BULFINCH.

May 24.

BE kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another. — *Rom.*
xii. 10.

LET dogs delight to bark and bite,
For God hath made them so;
Let bears and lions growl and fight,
For 't is their nature too.

But, children, you should never let
Such angry passions rise;
Your little hands were never made
To tear each other's eyes.

Let love through all your actions run,
And all your words be mild ;
Live like the Blessed Virgin's son,
That sweet and lovely Child.

His soul was gentle as a lamb ;
And as his stature grew,
He grew in favor both with man,
And God his Father too.

Now, Lord of all, he reigns above,
And from his heavenly throne,
He sees what children dwell in love.
And marks them for his own.

ISAAC WATTS.

IN a sensible family nobody ever hears the words "shall" and "sha'n't ;" nobody commands, and nobody obeys, but all conspire and joyfully co-operate.

EMERSON.

May 25.

OSMAN had a humanity so broad and deep that there was never a poor outcast, eccentric, or insane man, or some fool who had a pet madness in his brain, but fled at once to him, — that great heart lay there so sunny, so hospitable in the centre of the country, that it seemed as if the instinct of all sufferers drew them to his side.

EMERSON.

GRAVE, chaste, contented, though retired,
And of all other men desired,
On him the light of star and moon
Shall fall with purer radiance down ;
All constellations of the sky
Shed their virtue through his eye.
Him Nature giveth for defence
His formidable innocence.

EMERSON.

May 26.

LET your light so shine before men that they may see
your good works and glorify your Father which is
in heaven. — *Matt. v. 16.*

BEFORE I close my eyes to-night,
Let me myself these questions ask:
Have I endeavored to do right,
Nor thought my duty was a task?

Have I been gentle, lowly, meek,
And the small voice of conscience heard?
When passion tempted me to speak,
Have I repressed the angry word?

Have I with cheerful zeal obeyed
What my kind parents bade me do,
And not by word or action said
The thing that was not strictly true?

MRS. FOLLEN.

May 27.

THY word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto
my path. — *Ps. cxix. 105.*

WRITTEN IN A BIBLE.

REMEMBER, love, who gave thee this,
When other days shall come ;
When she who had thy earliest kiss,
Sleeps in her narrow home.
Remember, 't was a mother gave
The gift to one she 'd die to save.

That mother sought a pledge of love,
The holiest, for her son ;
And from the gifts of God above,
She chose a goodly one.
She chose for her beloved boy
The source of light and life and joy.

And bade him keep the gift, that when
The parting hour should come,
They might have hope to meet again
In an eternal home.
She said his faith in that would be
Sweet incense to her memory.

And should the scoffer, in his pride,
Laugh that fond faith to scorn,
And bid him cast the pledge aside,
That he from youth had borne,
She bade him pause and ask his breast
If he or she had loved him best.

As one whom his mother comforteth,
So will I comfort you. — *Isaiah* lxvi. 13.

May 28.

DESPISE not the day of small things. — *Zech.* iv.
10.

OPPORTUNITY.

THIS I beheld, or dreamed it in a dream : —
There spread a cloud of dust along a plain ;
And underneath the cloud, or in it, raged
A furious battle, and men yelled, and swords
Shocked upon swords and shields. A prince's banner
Wavered, then staggered backward, hemmed by foes.
A craven hung along the battle's edge,
And thought, " Had I a sword of keener steel, —
That blue blade that the king's son bears, — but this
Blunt thing ! " he snapt and flung it from his hand,
And lowering crept away and left the field.
Then came the king's son, wounded, sore bestead,
And weaponless, and saw the broken sword,
Hilt-buried in the dry and trodden sand,
And ran and snatched it, and with battle-shout
Lifted afresh he hewed his enemy down,
And saved a great cause that heroic day.

E. R. SILL.

May 29.

STARS, that on your wondrous way
Travel through the evening sky,
Is there nothing you can say
To such a little child as I?
Tell me, for I long to know,
Who has made you sparkle so?

Yes, methinks I hear you say,
"Child of mortal race, attend;
While we run our wondrous way,
Listen to the voice we send,
Teaching you that name divine,
By whose mighty word we shine.

"Child, as truly as we roll
Through the dark and distant sky,
You have an immortal soul,
Born to live when we shall die.
Suns and planets pass away;
Spirits never can decay.

"When some thousand years at most,
All their little time have spent,
One by one our sparkling host
Shall forsake the firmament:
We shall from our glory fall;
You must live beyond us all.

"Yes, and God, who bade us roll,
God, who placed us in the sky,
Stoops to watch an infant's soul
With a condescending eye,
And esteems it dearer far,
More in value, than a star!

"Oh, then, while your breath is given,
Let it rise in fervent prayer;
And beseech the God of heaven.
To receive your spirit there,
Like a living star to blaze
Ever to your Saviour's praise."

JANE TAYLOR.

Is not God in the height of heaven? and behold the height of the stars, how high they are! — *Job* xxii. 12.

May 30.

HE that findeth his life shall lose it; and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it. — *Matt.*
x. 39.

DECORATION DAY.

I WITH uncovered head
Salute the sacred dead,
Who went and who return not. Say not so!
'T is not the grapes of Canaan that repay,
But the high faith that failed not by the way.
Virtue treads paths that end not in the grave;
No bar of endless night exiles the brave;
And to the saner mind
We rather seem the dead that stayed behind.
Blow trumpets, all your exultations blow!
For never shall their aureoled presence lack:
I see them muster in a gleaming row,
With ever youthful brows that nobler show;
We find in our dull road their shining track;
In every nobler mood
We feel the orient of their spirit glow,
Part of our life's unalterable good,
Of all our saintlier aspiration;
They come transfigured back,
Secure from change in their high-hearted ways,
Beautiful evermore, and with the rays
Of morn on their white shields of expectation!

LOWELL

STAINLESS soldier on the walls,
Knowing this, — and knows no more, —
Whoever fights, whoever falls,
Justice conquers evermore,
Justice after as before, —

And he who battles on her side,
 God, though he were ten times slain,
 Crowns him victor glorified,
 Victor over death and pain.

EMERSON.

May 31.

MY little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue ; but in deed, and in truth. — 1 *John* iii. 18.

LOVE and kindness we may measure
 By this simple rule alone :
 Do we mind our neighbor's pleasure
 Just as if it were our own ?

We should always care for others,
 Nor suppose ourselves the best ;
 Let us love like friends and brothers,
 'T was the Saviour's last request.

His example we should borrow,
 Who forsook his throne above,
 And endured such pain and sorrow,
 Out of tenderness and love.

When the poor are unbefriended,
 If we will not pity lend,
 Christ accounts himself offended,
 Who is every creature's friend.

Let us not be so ungrateful,
 Thus his goodness to reward ;
 Selfishness, indeed, is hateful
 In the followers of the Lord.

When a selfish thought would seize us,
 And our resolution break,
 Let us then remember Jesus,
 And resist it for his sake.

JANE TAYLOR.

June 1.

LO, here hath been dawning another blue day;
Think, wilt thou let it slip useless away?

Out of eternity this new day is born,
Into eternity at night will return.

Behold it aforetime no eye ever did;
So soon it forever from all eyes is hid.

Here hath been dawning another blue day;
Think, wilt thou let it slip useless away?

CARLYLE.

ON bravely through the sunshine and the showers;
Time hath his work to do, and we have ours.

EMERSON.

DAYS.

To each they offer gifts after his will, —
Bread, kingdoms, stars, and sky that holds them all.

EMERSON.

So teach us to number our days that we may apply our
hearts unto wisdom. — *Ps.* xc. 12.



June 2.

MY father, my mother, I know
I cannot your kindness repay:
But I hope, that as older I grow,
I shall learn your commands to obey.

You loved me before I could tell
 Who it was that so tenderly smiled;
 But now that I know it so well,
 I should be a dutiful child.

I am sorry that ever I should
 Be naughty, and give you a pain;
 I hope I shall learn to be good,
 And so never grieve you again.

But lest after all I should dare
 To act an undutiful part,
 Whenever I'm saying my prayer,
 I'll ask for a dutiful heart.

JANE TAYLOR.

CHILDREN, obey your parents in all things: for this is well-pleasing unto the Lord. — *Col.* iii. 20.



June 3.

SWEET Day! so cool, so calm, so bright;
 The bridal of the earth and sky;
 The dew shall weep thy fall to-night,
 For thou must die.

Sweet Rose! whose hue, angry and brave,
 Bids the rash gazer wipe his eye;
 Thy root is ever in its grave,
 And thou must die.

Sweet Spring! full of sweet days and roses;
 A box where sweets compacted lie;
 My music shows ye have your closes,
 And all must die.

Only a sweet and virtuous soul,
 Like seasoned timber never gives;
 But, though the whole world turn to coal,
 Then chiefly lives.

HERBERT.

IN solitude and in the country, what dignity distinguishes the holy time ! The old Sabbath, or Seventh Day, white with the religions of unknown thousands of years, when this hallowed hour dawns out of the deep, — a clean page, which the wise may inscribe with truth, — the cathedral music of history breathes through it a psalm to our solitude.

EMERSON.

June 4.

AND a great and strong wind rent the mountains ; but the Lord was not in the wind ; and after the wind an earthquake ; but the Lord was not in the earthquake ; and after the earthquake a fire ; but the Lord was not in the fire ; and after the fire a still small voice. — *I Kings* xix. 12.

THE still small voice that speaks within,
I hear it when at play
I speak the loud and angry word
That drives my friend away.
If falsehood whispers to my heart
To tell a coward lie
To hide some careless thing I've done,
I hear the sad voice nigh.

If selfishness would bid me keep
What I should gladly share,
I hear again the inner voice,
And then with shame forbear.
The still small voice that speaks within, —
Oh, may I have a care !
It speaks to warn from every sin,
And God has placed it there.

SUNNY SIDE.

June 5.

BLESSED is the man that endureth temptation; for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.
— *James i. 12.*

EARTH cannot show so brave a sight
As when a single soul does fence
The battery of alluring sense;
And heaven views it with delight.
Then persevere; for still new charges sound
And if thou overcom'st thou shalt be crowned.

MARVELL.

IN hard temptation's troubled hour
Then let me stop to think and pray
That God would give my soul the power
To drive the sinful thought away.

MRS. FOLLEN.

June 6.

IF we live in the spirit, let us also walk in the spirit. — *Gal. v. 25.*

FOR as many as are led by the spirit of God they are the sons of God. — *Romans viii. 14.*

IN the *life* of Jesus as drawn in the Gospels, we see a greater wonder than the miracles themselves. In the moral character of Jesus we see a miracle more striking than the most stupendous work of a physical nature, and we feel an accordance between our best and purest sentiments and his conduct and teachings. We know that these sentiments are strengthened as our knowledge of him is enlarged. We perceive that we are growing

more like God ; we perceive our narrow hearts expanding with pure benevolence ; we perceive the storms of passion calmed, and a serene hope in God, and a patient endurance of injuries taking possession of our souls.

Never do I so earnestly desire to subdue my evil passion and to put on humility and universal love as when I behold the glory of God, in the actions, in the words of Jesus Christ.

CHANNING.

June 7.

BELIEVE not each accusing tongue,
As most weak people do ;
But still believe that story wrong
Which ought not to be true.

OVERCOME your dislike to certain persons ; do not shun them ; on the contrary go and meet them. God goes before you.

Be courteous even to the troublesome individual who is always in your way. God sends him to you.

Forgive at once. Do you believe harm was intended ? If so, is it not the greater merit ?

THE lip of truth shall be established forever ; but a lying tongue is but for a moment.

Deceit is in the heart of them that imagine evil.
— *Prov.* xii. 19, 20.

June 8.

HE shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee. And in their hands they shall bear thee up. — *Luke iv. 10.*

THEY who on the Lord rely,
Safely dwell though danger's nigh;
Lo, his sheltering wings are spread
O'er each faithful servant's head.

When we wake, or when we sleep,
Angel-guards our vigils keep;
Death and danger may be near;
Faith and love can never fear.

HARRIET AUBER.

June 9.

A SOFT answer turneth away wrath; but grievous words stir up anger. — *Prov. xv. 1.*

WHATEVER brawls disturb the street,
There should be peace at home;
Where sisters dwell, and brothers meet,
Quarrels should never come.

Birds in their little nests agree,
And 't is a shameful sight,
When children of one family
Fall out, and chide, and fight.

Hard names at first, and threatening words
That are but noisy breath,
May grow to clubs or naked swords,
To murder and to death.

The wise will let their anger cool,
At least before 't is night;
But in the bosom of a fool
It burns till morning light.

Pardon, O Lord, our childish rage,
Our little brawls remove;
That as we grow to riper age,
Our hearts may all be love.

ISAAC WATTS.

HE that sayeth he is in the light, and hateth his brother is in darkness even until now. — 1 *John* ii. 9.

June 10.

HAIL, thou bright and sacred morn,
Risen with gladness in thy beams;
Light, which not of earth is born,
From thy dawn in glory streams;
Airs of heaven are breathed around,
And each place is holy ground.

Sad and weary were our way,
Fainting oft beneath our load,
But for thee, thou blessed day,
Resting-place on life's rough road;
Here flow forth the streams of grace,
Strengthened hence we run our race.

JULIA ANNE ELLIOT, 1835.

BLESSED is the man that keepeth the sabbath. —
Isa. lvi. 2.

WHEN thou saidst, Seek ye my face, my heart said
unto thee, Thy face, Lord, will I seek.

Leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my
salvation.

When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up.

Teach me thy way, O Lord, and lead me in a plain path.

I had fainted unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart; wait, I say, on the Lord.

SELECTIONS FROM THE PSALMS.

June II.

A FRIEND called on Michael Angelo, who was finishing a statue. Some time afterward he called again; the sculptor was still at his work. His friend, looking at the figure, exclaimed, "You have been idle since I saw you last." "By no means," replied the sculptor; "I have softened this feature, and brought out this muscle; I have given more expression to this lip, and more energy to this limb." "Well, well," said his friend, "but these are all trifles." "It may be so," responded Angelo; "but recollect that trifles make perfection, and that perfection is no trifle."

AND let us not be weary in well-doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. — *Gal.* vi. 9.

THE smallest thing thou canst accomplish well;
The smallest, ill! 'Tis only little things
Make up the present day, make up all days,
Make up thy life. Do thou not therefore wait,
Keeping thy wisdom and thy honesty
Till great things come with trumpet heraldings.

LAYMAN'S BREVIARY.

June 12.

IN life's small things be resolute and great,
To keep thy muscle trained; knowest thou when Fate
Thy measure takes, or when she 'll say to thee
"I find thee worthy; do this deed for me"?

LOWELL.

THE ELIXIR.

TEACH me, my God and King,
In all things thee to see,
And what I do in anything,
To do it as for thee.

Not rudely, as a beast,
To run into an action;
But still to make thee prepossest,
And give it his perfection.

A man that looks on glass,
On it may stay his eye,
Or, if he pleaseth, through it pass,
And then the heaven espy.

All may of thee partake;
Nothing can be so mean
Which with this tincture (for thy sake)
Will not grow bright and clean.

A servant with this clause
Makes drudgery divine;
Who sweeps a room as for thy laws,
Makes that and th' action fine.

This is the famous stone
That turneth all to gold;
For that which God doth touch and own
Cannot for less be told.

HERBERT.

June 13.

FOR whatever men say in their blindness,
And spite of the fancies of youth,
There's nothing so kingly as kindness
And nothing so royal as truth.

SIR PHILIP SYDNEY, 1554.

A BEAUTIFUL trait of humanity is recorded of Sydney as he was being borne wounded from the battle-field. He complained grievously of thirst, and a bottle of water was procured for him, from which as he was about to drink, he was touched by the wistful look up at it of a mortally wounded soldier who lay close by, and taking it untasted from his lips, he handed it to his fellow in need with the words: "Thy need is greater than mine."

GREAT gifts can be given by little hands, since of all gifts love is still the best.

June 14.

LORD, when saw we thee an hungered and fed thee?
or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we
thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed
thee?

And the King shall answer, Verily I say unto you,
Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of
these, ye have done it unto me. — *Matt.* xxv.

THE Holy Supper is kept indeed
In whatso we share with another's need, —
Not what we give, but what we share,
For the gift without the giver is bare;
Who gives himself with his alms feeds three,
Himself, his hungering neighbor, and me.

LOWELL.

June 15.

TRUE politeness is perfect ease and freedom. It simply consists in treating others just as you love to be treated yourself.

CHESTERFIELD.

THE charm of polite society is formed by that sort of freedom and facility in all the members of a circle which makes each one pliable to the influences of the others, and sympathetic to slide into the moods and tastes of others without a jar; and this would make no less the charm of domestic life; but it can come only by watchfulness and self-discipline in each individual.

POLITENESS is to do and say
The kindest thing in the kindest way.

June 16.

WHO shall ascend into the hill of the Lord, and who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands and a pure heart. — *Ps.* xxiv. 3, 4.

WHAT will be our reward if we are clean and neat in our persons and clothes?

You will do much toward keeping well, and making yourselves attractive to those about you.

What will be our reward if we are temperate in eating and drinking?

You will be strong, active, cheerful. You will be likely to lead a longer, happier, and more useful life.

What will be our reward if we are hearty and kind in our manners?

You will receive kindness in return; you will make people happy about you; you will be like sunshine.

CHILD'S BOOK OF RELIGION.

AFFECT in things about thee cleanliness
That all may gladly board thee as a flower.
Let thy mind's sweetness have his operation
Upon thy body, clothes, and habitation.

HERBERT.

June 17.

THE SABBATH.

L ORD, in this sacred hour,
Within thy courts we bend,
And bless thy love, and own thy power,
Our Father and our Friend.

Thy temple is the arch
Of yon unmeasured sky;
Thy sabbath, the stupendous march
Of grand eternity.

Lord, may that holier day
Dawn on thy servant's sight;
And purer worship may we pay
In heaven's unclouded light!

BULFINCH.

WHEN we know not how to believe or how to pray, we at any rate know how to work for the good of others, and then God accepts this as if it were prayer. There is an old Latin saying, *Laborare est orare*; or, if we were to turn it into English we should say:—

Good working and good playing
Is almost like good praying.

Or, as some one else has said, —

He prayeth well
Who loveth well
Both man and bird and beast.

We ought all of us to say our prayers; they will help us to do what is good; but we must also remember that our prayers are of no use unless we strive, both in our work and in our play,

“To live more nearly as we pray.”

DEAN STANLEY.



June 18.

THERE shall be peace and truth in my days. — *Isa.*
xxxix. 8.

We should fill the hours with the sweetest things,
If we had but a day;
We should drink alone at the purest springs
In our upward way;
We should love with a lifetime's love in an hour,
If our hours were few!
We should rest, not for dreams, but for fresher power
To be and to do.

We should waste no moments in weak regret,
 If the day were but one;
 If what we remember and what we forget
 Went out with the sun,
 We should be from our clamorous selves set free
 To work or to pray,
 And to be what our Father would have us be,
 If we had but a day.

MARY LOWE DICKENSON.

THIS passing moment is an edifice
 Which the Omnipotent cannot rebuild.

EMERSON.

June 19.

THOU art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art
 that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another,
 thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the
 same things.

But we are sure that the judgment of God is according
 to truth against them which commit such things. —
Rom. ii. 1, 2.

WHAT are another's faults to me?
 I've not a vulture's bill
 To pick at every flaw I see,
 And make it wider still.

WHO made the heart, 't is He alone
 Decidedly can try us,
 He knows each chord — its various tone,
 Each spring — its various bias.

Then at the balance let's be mute,
 We never can adjust it;
 What's *done* we partly may compute,
 But know not what's *resisted*.

ROBERT BURNS.

June 20.

WHENE'ER I take my walks abroad,
How many poor I see!
What shall I render to my God
For all his gifts to me?

Not more than others I deserve,
Yet God hath given me more;
For I have food while others starve,
Or beg from door to door.

How many children in the street
Half naked I behold;
While I am clothed from head to foot,
And covered from the cold.

While some poor creatures scarce can tell
Where they may lay their head,
I have a home wherein to dwell,
And rest upon my bed.

While others early learn to swear,
And curse, and lie, and steal;
Lord, I am taught thy name to fear,
And do thy holy will.

Are these thy favors day by day,
To me above the rest?
Then let me love thee more than they,
And try to serve thee best.

ISAAC WATTS.

BE thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. — 1 *Tim.* iv. 12.

June 21.

AND who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good? — 1 *Peter* ii. 13.

I LIVE for those who love me,
For those who know me true,
For the heaven that smiles above me,
And awaits my spirit too;
For the cause that lacks assistance,
For the wrongs that need resistance,
For the future in the distance,
And the good that I can do.

G. L. BANKS.

EVENING.

THE sun is in the west;
The close of day I see:
Once more I go to take my rest;
The Lord has cared for me.

Now let me praise his name,
Who kept me through the day;
And while I own my sins with shame,
For pardon let me pray.

Then may I fall asleep,
And rest upon my bed,
Till morning light again shall peep,
And rouse my sleeping head.

MY OWN LITTLE HYMN BOOK.

June 22.

BLESS the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me bless his holy name, and forget not all his benefits: who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies. — *Ps. ciii. 1, 2, 5.*

THE MANIFOLD GRACE OF GOD.

THOU Grace Divine, encircling all,
A shoreless, soundless sea,
Wherein at last our souls must fall, —
O love of God most free!

When over dizzy heights we go,
One soft hand blinds our eyes,
The other leads us safe and slow, —
O love of God most wise!

And though we turn us from thy face,
And wander wide and long,
Thou hold'st us still in thine embrace, —
O love of God most strong.

The saddened heart, the restless soul,
The toil-worn frame and mind,
Alike confess thy sweet control, —
O love of God most kind!

And filled and quickened by thy breath,
Our souls are strong and free
To rise o'er sin and fear and death,
O love of God, to thee!

ELIZA SCUDDER, 1857.

June 23.

MY son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother; for they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck. — *Prov. i. 8, 9.*

HONOR thy father, and obey,
Honor thy mother too;
Do not refuse, do not delay
What they would have thee do.

Obeys your parents in the Lord;
Submit, as in his sight;
Obeys them, love them, mind their word,
For this, you know, is right.

MY OWN LITTLE HYMN-BOOK.

June 24.

COME and I will show you what is beautiful. It is a rose fully blown. See how she sits upon her mossy stem, like the queen of all the flowers! her leaves glow like fire; the air is filled with her sweet odor; she is the delight of every eye.

She is beautiful, but there is a fairer than she. He that made the rose is more beautiful than the rose; he is all lovely; he is the delight of every heart.

I will show you what is strong. The lion is strong; when he raiseth up himself from his lair, when he shaketh his mane, when the voice of his roaring is heard, the cattle of the field fly, and the wild beasts of the desert hide themselves, for he is very terrible.

The lion is strong, but He that madeth the lion is stronger than he ; his anger is terrible ; he could make us die in a moment, and no one could save us out of his hand.

I will show you what is glorious. The sun is glorious. When he shineth in the clear sky, when he sitteth on the bright throne in the heavens, and looketh abroad over all the earth, he is the most excellent and glorious creature the eye can behold.

The sun is glorious, but He that made the sun is more glorious than he. The eye beholdeth him not, for his brightness is more dazzling than we could bear.

He seeth in all dark places ; by night as well as by day ; and the light of his countenance is over all his works.

Who is this great Name, and what is he called, that my lips may praise him ?

This great Name is God. He made all things, but he is himself more excellent than all which he hath made. They are beautiful, but he is beauty ; they are strong, but he is strength ; they are perfect, but he is perfection.

MRS. BARBAULD.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS.

1. THOU shalt have no other gods but me ;
2. Before no idol bow thy knee ;
3. Take not the name of God in vain ;
4. Nor dare the sabbath day profane ;
5. Give both thy parents honor due ;
6. Take heed that thou no murder do ;
7. Abstain from words and deeds unclean ;
8. Nor steal though thou art poor and mean ;
9. Nor make a wilful lie, nor love it ;
10. What is thy neighbor's, dare not covet.

With all thy soul love God above,
And as thyself thy neighbor love.

ISAAC WATTS.

June 25.

FATHER, we look up to thee;
Let us in thy love agree;
Thou who art the God of peace,
Bid contention ever cease.

Make us of one heart and mind,
Self-forgetful, true, and kind;
Strong, yet meek in thought and word,
Like thy Son, our blessed Lord!

Let us for each other care,
Each the other's burden bear;
Ready, when reviled, to bless;
Studious of the law of peace.

Father, all our souls inspire,
Fill us with love's sacred fire;
Guided by that blessed light,
Order all our steps aright.

Free from anger, free from pride,
Let us thus in thee abide;
All the depths of love express, —
All the heights of holiness.

CHARLES WESLEY.

LET this truth be present to thee in the excitement of anger, — that to be moved by passion is not manly, but that mildness and gentleness, as they are more agreeable to human nature, so also are they more manly. For in the same degree in which a man's mind is nearer to freedom from all passion, in the same degree also is it nearer to strength.

MARCUS AURELIUS.

June 26.

BLEST is the man who fears the Lord !
His well-established mind,
In every varying scene of life
Shall true composure find.

Oft through the deep and stormy sea,
The heavenly footsteps lie ;
But on a glorious world beyond,
His faith can fix its eye.

Though dark his present prospects be,
And sorrows round him dwell,
Yet hope can whisper to his soul
That all will issue well.

Full in the presence of his God,
Through every scene he goes ;
And fearing him, no other fear
His steadfast bosom knows.

WE are safe as long as we believe that we are God's children, because then we shall always go to him in any temptation or danger.

JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE.

OH, how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee ; which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee, before the sons of men. — *Ps.* xxxi. 19.

June 27.

CHILD.

I SAW the glorious sun arise
From yonder mountain grey ;
And as he travelled through the skies,
The darkness went away ;
And all around me was so bright,
I wished it would be always light.

But when his shining course was done,
The gentle moon drew nigh,
The stars came twinkling, one by one,
Upon the shady sky.
Who made the sun to shine so far,
The moon, and every twinkling star ?

MAMMA.

'T was God, my child, who made them all,
By his almighty skill ;
He keeps them that they do not fall,
And guides them by his will, —
That glorious God, who lives afar,
In heaven beyond the highest star.

CHILD.

How very great that God must be,
Who rolls them through the air !
Is he too high to notice me,
Or listen to my prayer ?
Tell me if God will condescend
To be a little infant's friend.

MAMMA.

He will, for with a Father's eye,
He looks on all below ;
He feeds the ravens when they cry,
And makes the sun to glow :
And ever hath in mercy smiled
To bless a humble, praying child.

Behold the daisy where you tread,
That little lowly thing;
Behold the insects overhead,
That play about in spring;
Tho' we may think them mean and small,
Yet God takes notice of them all.

And will he not as surely make
A feeble child his care?
Yes! Jesus died for children's sake,
And loves the infant's prayer.
God made the stars and daisies too,
And watches over them and you.

JANE TAYLOR.

BLESS the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his
benefits; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and
tender mercies. — *Ps.* ciii. 2.

ARE not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and not
one of them is forgotten before God.

But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

Fear not therefore; ye are of more value than many
sparrows. — *Matt.* x. 29, 30, 31.

June 28.

IN conversation be sincere;
Keep conscience as the noontide clear.

BISHOP KEN.

AND neither do nor say to men
Whate'er you would not take again.

ISAAC WATTS.

IF you find it hard to be kind and polite and truthful at the same time, try to be in sympathy with those whom you meet, and look at things from their point of view. If you can, with true sympathy for them, treat them in the spirit that Jesus taught, you will be both true and kind; for you will find it is easy to *feel* kindly, so that it will not be untruthful to act so.

BUT speaking the truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things. — *Eph. iv. 15.*



June 29.

HE who delivers the oppressed, and has respect unto the aged has need of no reward, for the blessing of Him that blesseth is about him.

OLD-FASHIONED FAIRY TALES.

OLD AGE.

OLD age is that period when, after a long life either well or ill spent, people cease from activity, and are waiting to go home.

If the life has been nobly spent, if all the habits of youth and middle age have been pure, just, kind, and industrious, if one has been free from too much anxiety and sorrow, then old age is the most beautiful time in life, and its presence in a home a priceless blessing.

But see how many ifs! Sometimes the life has been nobly spent, but some failure of physical health, some strain upon weakened nerves, may leave an old person shaken and sorrowful. Or failing powers of sight or hearing or memory may make time hang heavily.

Put yourself in their place. Resolve to cast some sunlight on these darkened paths. Treat all the aged with considerate tenderness. Treat the noble old people with reverent tenderness. Treat those who are not noble with compassionate tenderness ; for consider what sadness must hang over age, if one has wasted opportunities, and there is no strength to begin anew.

Never be impatient with the loss of memory in old people.

Do not try to set them right, when they are wrong. Throw a veil over all infirmity, draw off the attention of others. Take no notice. Study the causes of decrepitude. It is only the mechanism through which the soul reveals itself, not the soul itself, which is injured.

S. I. L.

June 30.

ALL things whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive. — *Matt.* xxi. 22.

TRUE PRAYER.

I OFTEN say my prayers ;
But do I ever pray ?
Or do the wishes of my heart
Suggest the words I say ?

'T is useless to implore,
Unless I feel my need ;
Unless 't is from a sense of want
That all my prayers proceed.

I may as well kneel down
And worship gods of stone,
As offer to the living God
A prayer of words alone.

For words without the heart
The Lord will never hear ;
Nor will he ever those regard
Whose prayers are insincere.

Lord, teach me what I want,
And teach me how to pray ;
Nor let me e'er implore thy grace,
Not feeling what I say.

A SINGLE sin, however apparently trifling, however hidden in some obscure corner of our consciousness, — a sin we do not intend to renounce, — is enough to render real prayer impracticable.

F. P. COBBE.

July 1.

KNOW ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the spirit of God dwelleth in you? — 1 *Cor.* iii. 16.

CHILDREN'S CREED.

CHILDREN should learn to know that there is in the heart of every one of us something which tells us when we have done right or wrong, which makes the color come into our cheeks when we have said what is not true, which we must treat with honor both in ourselves and others. What is this? There are many names by which you will hear it called in after life, but there is one name which we speak of almost in a whisper because we do not like to think or speak of it as if it were a common thing. We call it "the voice of God," the invisible Power all around, which is also within us, — the "Breath" or the "Spirit of God," which we cannot see any more than we can see our own breath or spirit, — and because it is so good we call it "The Holy Spirit of God." And from this "Breath or Spirit of God" comes all the Good, not only in ourselves but in other people; and children cannot learn too early to admire and love all that is admirable and lovable in the men, women, and children that they see around them. They may, perhaps, also be able to learn the great lesson that there are things to be admired and loved in people they do not like, in people that hurt and annoy them, or even in those they ought to avoid.

DEAN STANLEY.

HYMN FOR A LITTLE CHILD.

GOD make my life a little light,
Within the world to glow;
A little flame that burneth bright,
Wherever I may go.

God make my life a little flower,
That giveth joy to all,
Content to blow in native bower,
Although its place be small.

God make my life a little song,
That comforteth the sad ;
That helpeth others to be strong
And makes the singer glad.

God make my life a little staff,
Whereon the weak may rest,
That so what health and strength I have
May serve my neighbor best.

God make my life a little hymn
Of tenderness and praise ;
Of faith that never waxeth dim
In all his wondrous ways.



July 2.

LOSE this day loitering, 't will be the same story
To-morrow, and the next *more* dilatory.
The indecision brings its own delays
And days are lost lamenting o'er lost days.
Are you in earnest? *Seize this very minute!*
What you can do or think you can, begin it!
Boldness has genius, power, and magic in it!
Only engage, and then the mind grows heated;
Begin it, and the work will be completed.

PERHAPS the most valuable result of all education is
the ability to make yourself do the thing you have to do
when it ought to be done, whether you like it or not.

HUXLEY.

NOT slothful in business, fervent in spirit, serving the
Lord. — *Rom.* xii. 11.

July 3.

THE servant of the Lord must not strive, but be gentle unto all men. — 2 *Tim.* ii. 3.

WHEN for some little insult given
My angry passions rise,
I'll think how Jesus came from heaven,
And bore his injuries.

He was insulted every day,
Though all his words were kind;
But nothing men could do or say
Disturbed his heavenly mind.

Not all the wicked scoffs he heard,
Against the truths he taught,
Excited one reviling word,
Or one revengeful thought.

And when upon the cross he bled,
With all his foes in view,
"Father, forgive them," Jesus said,
"They know not what they do."

Dear Saviour, may I learn of thee,
My temper to amend;
But speak that pardoning word for me
Whenever I offend.

JANE TAYLOR.

OH, the sweetness of sweet words! Oh, the beauty of truth spoken in love! Happy the family where rising irritation is always calmed by the soft, tender voice which comes like balm to the wounded spirit.

JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE.

July 4.

FOR he that is mighty hath done to me great things ;
and holy is his name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation. — *Luke* i. 49, 50.

OH, tenderly the haughty day
Fills his blue urn with fire ;
One morn is in the mighty heaven,
And one in our desire.

The cannon booms from town to town,
Our pulses beat not less,
The joy-bells chime their tidings down,
Which children's voices bless.

For He that flung the broad blue fold
O'er-mantling land and sea,
One third part of the sky unrolled
For the banner of the free.

And henceforth there shall be no chain,
Save underneath the sea.
The wires shall murmur through the main
Sweet songs of liberty.

For He that worketh high and wise,
Nor pauses in his plan,
Will take the sun out of the skies,
Ere freedom out of man.

EMERSON.

CANNON to cannon shall repeat her praise,
Banner to banner flap it forth in flames ;
Her children shall rise up to bless her name,
And wish her harmless length of days, —
The mighty mother of a mighty brood,
Blessed in all tongues and dear to every blood,
The beautiful, the strong, and best of all, the good !

LOWELL.

July 5.

BLESS the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits. — *Ps. ciii. 2.*

DARK night away hath rolled ;
Glad birds are soaring high ;
The sun, with rays of gold,
Looks from the dazzling sky.
By God's protection kept,
I rested safe from harm,
For o'er me, while I slept,
He stretched his mighty arm.

Teach me to thank the Power
Whose hand sustains me so ;
Who o'er each fragrant flower
Bids dews of mercy flow.
Oh, raise my heart above,
Where angel hosts adore ;
I 'll praise thee for thy love,
And count thy mercies o'er.

Do not run after happiness, but seek to do good, and you will find that happiness will run after you. The day will dawn full of expectation, the night fall full of repose. This world will seem a very good place, and the world to come a better place still.

JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE.

EVER the words of the gods resound,
But the portals of man's ear
Seldom in this low life's round
Are unsealed, that he may hear.

EMERSON.

July 6.

SLANG.

WHAT is it? As exaggeration may lead to profanity, so the use of slang may make it easier to be vulgar.

Keep your words *sweet* and *pure*, and be careful not to slip into unclean phrases, — as careful as you would be to keep your feet from the mire.

How avoid it?

First: Do not express all kinds of pleasure or displeasure by means of some one pet adjective of satisfaction or disgust.

Beware of using such expressions as "lovely" "sweet" or "horrid" or "beastly" when you do not really mean to imply the qualities which those words literally stand for.

Second: Try to use the words which exactly fit your thought. *Neatness* in speech will help you to *neatness* of thought, while slovenliness of expression will always help to confirm you in lax mental habits.

Third: Acquire as large a vocabulary as possible. There are words in English to express everything you have to say, without compelling you to use words which are *not* English.

The habitual use of slang is the mark of a feeble or uncultivated mind. The slang expression which seems to you bright and funny may offend others and seem to them coarse and ill-bred.

Finally: In your prayers to God, make your words as simple as those of the Lord's Prayer, which is a marvel of perfect expression for all our daily and common aspiration. Thoughts of God and towards him should of all thoughts be truthful since they lead us into all truth.

C. W. AMES.

LET the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer. — *Ps.* xix. 14.

July 7.

O BIRDS, your perfect virtue bring,
Your song, your forms, your rhythmic flight,
Your manners for the heart's delight;
Nestle in hedge, or barn, or roof,
Here weave your chamber weather-proof:
Forgive your harms, and condescend
To man, as to a lubber friend,
And generous, teach his awkward race
Courage, and probity, and grace!

EMERSON.

I HAVE been admiring the perfection of God's works, and seeing his glory in all that he has made. Oh could his rational offspring fulfil their purpose and reach their perfection, as do these humbler productions of his wisdom and love! But are we to despair? They are short-lived and not free. Can we expect a free, immortal being to develop himself as early and regularly as the material, finite germ?

CHANNING.

O LORD, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches. — *Ps.* civ. 24.

July 8.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR the king made an image of gold, whose height was threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof six cubits : he set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon.

Then Nebuchadnezzar the king sent to gather together the princes, the governors, and the captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image which Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.

Then the princes, the governors, and captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces were gathered together unto the dedication of the image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up ; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

Then an herald cried aloud, To you it is commanded, O people, nations, and languages,

That at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of music, ye fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up.

And whoso falleth not down and worshipping shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.

Therefore at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and all kinds of music, all the people, the nations, and the languages, fell down and worshipped the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.

Wherefore at that time certain Chaldeans came near, and accused the Jews.

They spake and said to the king Nebuchadnezzar, O king, live for ever.

Thou, O king, hast made a decree, that every man that shall hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of music, shall fall down and worship the golden image :

And whoso falleth not down and worshippingeth, that he should be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.

There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego ; these men, O king, have not regarded thee : they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

Then Nebuchadnezzar in his rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. Then they brought these men before the king.

Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up?

Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of music, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made, well : but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace ; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter.

If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king.

But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Shadrach, Meshach,

and Abed-nego : therefore he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated.

And he commanded the most mighty men that were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace.

Then these men were bound in their coats, their hosen, and their hats, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flame of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego.

And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counselors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king.

He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt ; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.

Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, and spake, and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, ye servants of the most high God, come forth, and come hither. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego came forth of the midst of the fire.

And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them.

Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed be the

God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God.

Therefore I make a decree, That every people, nation, and language, which speak anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill : because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort.

Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, in the province of Babylon. — *Dan.* iii.

July 9.

LIFE'S WORK.

ALL around us, fair with flowers,
Fields of beauty sleeping lie ;
All around us clarion voices
Call to duty stern and high.

Thankfully we will rejoice in
All the beauty God has given ;
But beware it does not win us
From the work ordained of Heaven.

Following every voice of mercy
With a trusting, loving heart,
Let us in life's earnest labor
Still be sure to do our part.

Now, to-day, and not to-morrow,
Let us work with all our might,
Lest the wretched faint and perish
In the coming stormy night.

Now, to-day, and not to-morrow,
 Lest before to-morrow's sun,
 We, too, mournfully departing,
 Shall have left our work undone.

BOOK OF HYMNS.

HEREIN is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit. — *John* xv. 8.

AND whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men. — *Col.* iii. 23.



July 10.

PURE religion before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world. — *James* i. 27.

STUDY to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed. — *2 Tim.* ii. 15.

THAT which each can do best, none but his Maker can teach him.

Do that which is assigned you, and you cannot hope too much or dare too much.

EMERSON.

THE music that can deepest reach
 And cure all ill is cordial speech;
 Mask thy wisdom with delight,
 Toy with the bow, yet hit the white.
 Of all wit's uses, the main one
 Is to live well with who has none.

EMERSON.

July 11.

NO task is well performed by a reluctant hand.

O DAFFY-DOWN-DILLY, so brave and so true,
I wish all were like you,—
So ready for duty in all sorts of weather,
And holding forth courage and beauty together.

MISS WARNER.

WHATSOEVER thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might. — *Eccles.* 9, 10.

A VOICE within his breast
Whispered, audible and clear,
As if to the outward ear,
Do thy duty! that is best,
Leave unto thy Lord the rest.

—♦—

July 12.

THE Lord is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him.

It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord. — *Lam.* iii. 25, 26.

FOR DAILY STRENGTH.

I ASK thee for the daily strength,
To none that ask denied,
A mind to blend with outward life,
While keeping at thy side;
Content to fill a little space,
If thou be glorified.

And if some things I do not ask
Among my blessings be,
I would have my spirit filled the more
With grateful love to thee;
More careful not to serve thee much,
But please thee perfectly.

There are briers besetting every path
That call for patient care;
There is a cross in every lot,
An earnest need for prayer;
But lowly hearts that lean on thee,
Are happy anywhere.

In a service which thy will appoints,
There are no bonds for me;
My inmost heart is taught the truth
That makes thy children free:
A life of self-renouncing love
Is a life of liberty.

ANNA L. WARING, 1850.

ARE not answered prayers the rule, not the exception with us all? Do we ever number them over to ourselves,—the petitions we offer continually for the blessings of life, safety, health, daily food, for deliverance from overmastering temptation, the thousand common mercies, so-called because although we should be beggared without them, we are so used to their visits that we forget to entertain them as God's kindest messengers? And if when we seek special favors which are not, we are persuaded, inconsistent with His holy will, we find with Christian that the key named Promise turns hard in the lock, the fault is too often in the nerveless fingers and timid grasp that are all unused to "taking hold."

July 13.

HIS compassions fail not. They are new every morning. The Lord is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him. — *Lam.* iii. 22-24.

LORD have mercy when we pray
Strength to seek a better way;
When our wakening thoughts begin
First to loathe their cherished sin.

When the earliest gleam is given
Of the bright but distant heaven,
Then thy fostering grace afford
Then, oh then, have mercy, Lord!

HENRY H. MILMAN.

WE are never without help. We have no right to say of any good work, It is too hard for me to do; or of any sinful habit, It is too hard for me to overcome.

ELIZABETH CHARLES.

July 14.

GOLDEN DAYS.

THE days are gliding swiftly by,
The days so bright and golden,
In leaf and flower the summer writes
Her poem sweet and olden.

The earth is warm with life and joy,
The air is full of splendor,
And unto all the south wind brings
Her message sweet and tender.

O Giver of these summer hours,
All nature gives thee praises,
From mountain peak to where the flower
Its lowly bloom upraises.

And at thy feet we, too, would sing,
With all thy creatures living,
A song of mirth, a song of joy,
A song of glad thanksgiving.

The golden days, the long bright days,
The gladdest of the year,
The green grass springs, the wild birds sing,
The summer time is here.

MRS. E. H. LELAND.

TRULY the light is sweet, and a pleasant thing it is for the eyes to behold the sun. — *Eccles.* xi. 7.

PRAISE ye the Lord : for it is good to sing praises unto God ; for it is pleasant, and praise is comely.

Praise ye him, sun and moon : praise him, all ye stars of light : for his name alone is excellent ; his glory is above the earth and heaven. — *Ps.* cxlvii., cxlviii.

July 15.

DIVIDE the Sunday from the week.

SHAKESPEARE.

OH, come, let us worship and bow down ; let us kneel before the Lord our maker. — *Ps.* xcv. 6.

IT is surely as sweet and needful as it is fitting, that we should spend in the house of prayer a part of our day of rest. Almighty God hath revealed himself as one to whom we may give thanks for the blessings of life, whom we may seek for guidance in our difficulties, and for pardon of our sins.

Let our resolutions of obedience and our worship have faith and love in them, as well as earnestness ; so will this be a true meeting-time between the Father in heaven and his children on earth.

SERVICES FOR CONGREGATIONAL WORSHIP.

SUNDAYS observe. Think, when the bells do chime,
'T is angels' music ; therefore, come not late.
God then deals blessings. If a king did so,
Who would not haste, nay, give, to see the show ?

THOUGH private prayer be a brave design,
Yet public hath more promises, more love.

PRAY with the most : for where most pray is heaven.

WHEN once thy foot enters the church, be bare ;
God is more there than thou : for thou art there
Only by his permission. Then beware,
And make thyself all reverence and fear.

LET vain or busy thoughts have there no part ;
Bring not thy plough, thy plots, thy pleasures thither.
Christ purged this temple ; so must thou thy heart.

JUDGE not the preacher, for he is thy judge ;
If thou mislike him, thou conceiv'st him not.

THE worst speak something good ; if all want sense,
God takes a text and preacheth patience.

HERBERT.

July 16.

TAKE diligent heed to love the Lord your God and to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and to cleave unto him, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul. — *Josh.* xxii. 5.

FEAR thou not, for I am with thee ; be not dismayed, for I am thy God : I will strengthen thee ; yea, I will help thee ; I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.— *Isa.* xli. 10.

How dear, how soothing to man, arises the idea of God, peopling the lonely place, effacing the scars of our mistakes and disappointments.

It inspires in man an infallible trust. He is sure that his welfare is dear to the heart of being. He believes that he cannot escape from his good. The things that are really for thee gravitate to thee. Oh, believe, as thou livest, that every sound that is spoken over the round world, which thou oughtest to hear, will vibrate on thine ear !

EMERSON.

FOR this is Love's nobility, —
Not to scatter bread and gold,
Goods and raiment bought and sold ;
But to hold fast his simple sense,
And speak the speech of innocence.
He that feeds men serveth few,
He serves all who dares be true.

EMERSON.

July 17.

PRAYER FOR GRACE.

GRACIOUS Spirit, dwell with me ;
I myself would gracious be,
And, with words that help and heal,
Would thy life in mine reveal ;
And with actions bold and meek
Christ's own gracious spirit speak.

Truthful Spirit, dwell with me ;
 I myself would truthful be
 And with wisdom kind and clear
 Let thy life in mine appear ;
 And with actions brotherly
 Follow Christ's sincerity.

Mighty Spirit, dwell with me ;
 I myself would mighty be,
 Mighty so as to prevail
 Where unaided man must fail ;
 Ever by a mighty hope
 Pressing on and bearing up.

Holy Spirit, dwell with me ;
 I myself would holy be ;
 Separate from sin, I would
 Choose and cherish all things good ;
 And whatever I can be
 Give to him who gave me thee.

THOMAS TOKE LYNCH.

DRAW nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.
 — *James* iv. 8.

July 18.

FOR I delight in the law of God after the inward
 man :

But the good that I would, I do not ; and the evil
 which I would not, that I do. — *Rom.* vii. 19, 22.

SEEKING AFTER GOD.

THOU hidden love of God, whose height,
 Whose depth unfathomed no man knows,
 I see from far thy beauteous light,
 Inly I sigh for thy repose.
 My heart is pained ; nor can it be
 At rest till it find rest in thee.

Thy secret voice invites me still
The sweetness of thy yoke to prove.
And fain I would ; but though my will
Seem fixed, yet wide my passions rove ;
Yet hindrances strew all the way ;
I aim at thee, yet from thee stray.

'T is mercy all, that thou hast brought
My mind to seek her peace in thee ;
Yet, while I seek, but find thee not,
No peace my wandering soul shall see.
Oh, when shall all my wanderings end,
And all my steps to thee ward tend !

Is there a thing beneath the sun,
That strives with thee my heart to share ?
Ah ! tear it thence, and reign alone,
The lord of every motion there.
Then shall my heart from earth be free,
When it hath found repose in thee.

GERHARD TERSTEEGEN, 1731.

EVERY noble act of devotion to truth, every pure life, every word of pity, every instance of forgiving goodness helps us to a better faith in that divine and eternal goodness which has no variableness or shadow of turning.

JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE.



July 19.

HAPPY is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.

My son, let not them depart from thine eyes : keep sound wisdom and discretion :

So shall they be life unto thy soul, and grace to thy neck.

Then shalt thou walk in thy way safely, and thy foot shall not stumble.

When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid : yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet. — *Prov. iii. 13, 21-24.*

ONLY ignorance ! only ignorance ! how can you talk about only ignorance ? Don't you know that it is the worst thing in the world, next to wickedness ? And which does the most mischief, Heaven only knows.

BLACK BEAUTY.

How happy is the child who hears
Instruction's warning voice ;
And who celestial wisdom makes
His early, only choice.

According as her labors rise,
So her rewards increase ;
Her ways are ways of pleasantness,
And all her paths are peace.



July 20.

LET your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. — *Matt. v. 16.*

LET us then come to ourselves by coming to God ; by obeying him ; by filling life with nobleness, truth, and love.

JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE.

How far that little candle throws his beams !
So shines a good deed in a naughty world !

SHAKESPEARE.

No man or woman of the humblest sort can really be strong, gentle, pure, and good without the world being better for it, without somebody being helped and comforted by the very existence of that goodness.

PHILLIPS BROOKS.

July 21.

I LAY my body down to sleep;
Peace is the pillow for my head;
While well-appointed angels keep
Their watchful stations round my bed.

Faith in his name forbids my fear:
Oh, may thy presence ne'er depart!
And in the morning make me hear
Thy love and kindness in my heart.

ISAAC WATTS, 1709.

It is by coming to God every day, and trusting in him, leaning on his help, believing in his providence, conversing with him in the aspirations of prayer, that we come to be as certain of God's presence and love as of our own existence.

JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE.

WHO crowneth thee with loving kindness and tender mercies. — *Ps.* ciii. 4.

Now in thy youth beseech of Him
Who giveth, upbraiding not,
That the light in thy heart become not dim,
And His love be unforgot;
And thy God in the darkest of days will be
Greenness and beauty and strength to thee.

July 22.

GLORY to thee, my God, this night,
For all the blessings of the light:
Keep me, oh, keep me, King of kings,
Beneath the shadow of thy wings.

Forgive me, Lord, through thy dear Son,
The ills which I this day have done;
That with the world, myself, and thee,
I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.

Be thou my Guardian while I sleep;
Thy watchful station near me keep;
My heart with love celestial fill,
And guard me from the approach of ill.

Lord, let my heart forever share
The bliss of thy paternal care:
'T is heaven on earth, 't is heaven above,
To see thy face and sing thy love.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow:
Praise him, all creatures here below!
Praise him, ye angels round his throne,
Praise God, the high and holy One!

BISHOP THOMAS KEN, 1697, 1709.

PRAYER.

WHAT must we teach, what must be learned about prayer? Let no parent forget, let no child forget, to say a prayer, however short, at morning and evening. It will help to make you better all day. The Lord's Prayer will never fail you. The child will be able to understand it, the old man will find it expressing all that he wants. And there is also that form of prayer expressed in hymns. There are hymns that can be remembered better than anything else, and which in restless, sleepless nights of

pain and suffering will come back to our minds many, many years after they were learned in childhood. Among these let me recommend the Morning and Evening Hymns, written by one of the best of Englishmen, Bishop Ken, — the first beginning, "Awake, my soul, and with the sun," and the other, "Glory to Thee, my God, this night." Not long ago I was visiting an aged and famous statesman, and he repeated to me, word by word, "The Evening Hymn" as he had learned it, he told me, from his nurse, ninety years before.

DEAN STANLEY.

—◆—
July 23.

WHEN I awake, I am still with thee.
Search me, O God, and know my heart ; try me
and know my thoughts :

And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead
me in the way everlasting, — Ps. cxxxix. 18, 23, 24.

WHEN the bright sun, returning,
Brings back the busy day,
Before you feel temptation,
Kneel, little child, and pray.

Thank God for peaceful slumber,
For the day that he has given ;
And pray that you may use it
To make you fit for heaven.

Think over what may happen
To lead you to do wrong ;
And pray that God will help you
In obedience to be strong.

With a loving, gentle spirit,
Kneel, little child, and pray
That God, who watched your sleeping,
Will watch you through the day.

July 24.

INSTEAD of teaching young persons doctrines or speculations about Jesus, lead them to Jesus himself. Let them read his words, study his life, and apply it daily in their own.

JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE.

AND Jesus opened his mouth and taught them, saying, Blessed are the poor in spirit ; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn ; for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek ; for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness ; for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful ; for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart ; for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peace-makers ; for they shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake ; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. — *Matt. v. 2-12.*

AVIDIUS CASSIUS who had rebelled against Marcus Aurelius, and seized the whole of Asia Minor, had perished by assassination. The conduct of Marcus Aurelius on hearing of his enemy's death was worthy of the sublime virtue of his character. He lamented that the Fates had not granted him his fondest wish, — to have freely pardoned the man who had so basely conspired against his happiness. . . . He burned the papers of Cassius without reading them, so that he might not be at liberty to suspect any as traitors.

JOHN STUART MILL.

July 25.

COMMIT thy way unto the Lord ; trust also in him.
Ps. xxxvii. 5.

LIFE AND DEATH.

LIFE ! I know not what thou art,
But know that thou and I must part ;
And when, or how, or where we met,
I own to me 's a secret yet.

Life ! we 've been long together,
Through pleasant and through cloudy weather.
'T is hard to part when friends are dear,
Perhaps 't will cost a sigh, a tear.

Then steal away, give little warning,
Choose thine own time ;
Say not " Good-night," but in some brighter clime
Bid me " Good-morning."

MRS. BARBAULD.

WHEN we awake into another life, with no abrupt transition, with no astonishment, but with a serene satisfaction, shall we find ourselves softly led into new being in the midst of old and new friends?

JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE.

July 26.

AND all things are of God. — 2 *Cor.* v. 18.

I USED often to think what a difference there was between Mrs. Hart and my mother, though it would have been hard to say which was the strivingest ; but

it seemed to me that mother kept her work under her like a queen, and would n't be a servant to it, while my mistress was a slave to all that was to be got through.

Mother always called the seasons according to the work God was doing outside over the land. With her it was lambing season, and blossoming, and harvest, and seed-time, unless it was Easter, or Whitsuntide, or Christmas.

.

Mother used to say, "The heavier the work, the least noise;" and I remember well her standing out with me in our garden one day, looking all down the valley when the harvest was ripe, and saying, "Look-a-down, lass, on all that the Lord's hand is doing over the land." It's grand to think that when the sun comes out of his chambers, and when the blossoms and the fruit and the corn and all are brought forth, it's all wrought so still, and no one hears him doing; and it makes one feel it the more like a kind of a Presence when, as it says in the Psalms, "The storms are for his chariot, and he goeth on the wings of the wind." I think it's a lesson to them that he's put here to do their duty in the state of life to which it has pleased him to call them, — showing them that his way is to work *still*, whether it's in the earth or on the souls of men; and that their duties are done best to please him when there's the most thought over them, and the least noise.

COPSLEY ANNALS.

THE hard routine of work into which no love and thought enter leaves us in a lethargy. To "redeem the time," we must look up, not down. Seeking things below takes our strength away. Waiting on the Lord for his higher gifts renews us day by day.

JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE.

July 27.

OUR Father who art in heaven. — *Matt.* vi. 9.

GREAT God ! and wilt thou condescend
To be my father and my friend ?
I but a child and thou so high,
The Lord of earth and air and sky !

Art thou my Father ? — Let me be
A meek obedient child to thee ;
And try, in every deed and thought,
To serve and please thee as I ought.

Art thou my Father ? — I 'll depend
Upon the care of such a friend ;
And only wish to do and be
Whatever seemeth good to thee.

Art thou my Father ? — Then, at last,
When all my days on earth are past,
Send down and take me, in thy love,
To be thy better child above.

JANE TAYLOR.

WE cannot know God until we love God.

Jesus teaches us to know God by showing him to us
as our Father and Friend.

JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE.



July 28.

ONE by one thy duties wait thee,
Let thy whole strength go to each ;
Let no future dream elate thee,
Learn thou first what they can teach.

One by one, bright gifts from heaven,
Joys are sent thee here below;
Take them readily when given,
Ready, too, to let them go.

One by one thy griefs shall meet thee;
Do not fear an armed band;
One will fade as others greet thee, —
Shadows passing through the land.

Every hour that fleets so slowly
Has its task to do or bear;
Luminous the crown and holy,
If thou set each gem with care.

A. A. PROCTER.

FRIENDS, kinsfolk, and dear ones, salute him who, far-travelled, returns home safe. So the good deeds done welcome him who, going from this world, enters the other.

BUDDHA.

WHEREFORE, beloved, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot and blameless.—
2 *Peter* iii. 14.

July 29.

AND Noah went forth; and Noah builded an altar unto the Lord, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And the Lord said, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; neither will I again smite any more everything living as I have done.

While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease. And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth.

And I, behold, I establish my covenant with you, and with your seed after you ; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood.

And God said, This is the token of the Covenant which I make between me and you, and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations :

I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.

And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud : and I will remember my covenant. — *Gen.* viii., ix.

TO THE RAINBOW.

TRIUMPHAL Arch, that fill'st the sky
When storms prepare to part,
I ask not proud philosophy
To teach me what thou art.

Still seem, as to my childhood's sight,
A midway station given,
For happy spirits to alight
Betwixt the earth and heaven.

Can all that optics teach unfold
Thy form to please me so
As when I dreamed of gems and gold
Hid in thy radiant bow ?

And yet, fair bow, no fabling dreams,
But words of the Most High,
Have told why first thy robe of beams
Was woven in the sky.

How glorious is thy girdle, cast
O'er mountain, tower, and town,
Or mirrored in the ocean vast
A thousand fathoms down !

As fresh in yon horizon dark,
As young thy beauties seem,
As when the eagle from the ark
First sported in thy beam.

For, faithful to its sacred page,
Heaven still rebuilds thy span ;
Nor lets the type grow pale with age,
That first spoke peace to man.

CAMPBELL.

WILT thou not ope thy heart to know
What rainbows teach, and sunsets show ?
Revere the Maker ; fetch thine eye
Up to his style and manners of the sky.

EMERSON.



July 30.

THE heart of the wise teacheth his mouth, and addeth learning to his lips. — *Prov.* xvi. 23.

Two eyes and only one mouth have you ;
The reason of this must be,
That you should learn that it will not do
To *talk* about all you *see*.

If wisdom's ways you wisely seek,
Five things observe with care ;
To whom you speak, of whom you speak,
And how, and when, and where.

LEARN to say "No," it will be of more use to you than to be able to read Latin.

SPURGEON.

No man has a prosperity so high or firm but two or three words can dishearten it. There is no calamity but right words will begin to reduce.

EMERSON.

July 31.

THE Citizen of Athens at the age of eighteen received in the ancient temple a shield and spear and took this oath: —

I will not dishonor my sacred shield. I will not abandon my fellow-soldier in the ranks. I will do battle for our altars and our homes, whether aided or unaided. I will leave our country not less but greater and nobler than she is now entrusted to me. I will reverently obey the citizens who shall act as judges. I will obey the laws which have been ordained by the national will, and which in time to come shall be ordained by the national will. And whoever would subvert the laws or would disobey them, I will not suffer him, but I will do battle for them whether aided or unaided. And I will reverence our ancestral temples. Of which things the gods are my witness.

FIGHT the good fight; lay hold upon eternal life.
Keep but thy shield, be bold,
Stand through the hottest strife
Invincible while in the field.
Thou canst not fail, unless thou yield.

THOU therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. — 2 *Tim.* ii. 3.

August 1.

AND they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus. — *Acts* iv. 13.

BELIEVE me, your Christianity must be everywhere or nowhere, in everything or in nothing. You can keep it beside you when you sit at work, or when you put down your work to read the last entertaining book, or carry it abroad with you when you walk, or ride, or drive. You ought to be able to take it with you to your gayest party, and not leave it behind you when you dance and think "nae ill." It may be in your merriest laugh as well as in your bitterest weeping. . . . I tell you once more, there is Christianity in threading your mother's needle, or pulling off your little sister's boot, as well as in distributing tracts and taking notes of sermons; and there is more security of the genuineness of the Christianity in the first instances than in the last.

SARAH TYTLER.

DEAR friend! whose presence in the house
Whose gracious word benign,
Could once at Cana's wedding feast,
Change water into wine, —

Come, visit us, and when dull work
Grows weary, line on line,
Revive our souls, and make us see
Life's water glow as wine.

Gay mirth shall deepen into joy,
Earth's hopes shall grow divine,
When Jesus visits us to turn
Life's water into wine.

The social talk, the evening fire,
The homely household shrine,
Shall glow with angel visits when
The Lord pours out the wine.

For when self-seeking turns to love,
Which knows not mine and thine,
The miracle again is wrought,
And water changed to wine.

JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE.

August 2.

I WILL both lay me down in peace and sleep ; for
thou, Lord, only makest me dwell in safety. — *Ps.*
iv. 8.

THE day of work and play is done ;
The time has come for sleep ;
O God ! through all the hours of night
Do thou thy children keep !

Through all the day, by thy command,
The sun shines bright and clear ;
And now, at night, by thy command,
The shining stars appear.

Thou, whom the sun and stars obey,
Dost also care for me ;
I pray that thou wouldst make me rest
Through this night quietly.

Forgive what I 've done wrong this day ;
Help me to better things ;
And keep me in thy sheltering love,
As birds 'neath mothers' wings.

Now that the light of day is gone,
Keep me from foolish fear ;
And let me close my eyes in peace,
Assured that thou art near.

August 3.

IN a modest, humble mind,
God himself will take delight;
But the proud and haughty find
They are hateful in his sight.

Jesus Christ was meek and mild,
And no angry thoughts allowed;
Oh, then, shall a little child
Dare to be perverse and proud?

This, indeed, should never be;
Lord, forbid it, we entreat;
Grant that all may learn of thee,
That humility is sweet.

HYMNS FOR INFANT MINDS.

HE who drops his head hearing praise, and is glad to be told of his faults is a sage.

BUT the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace. — *Ps.* xxxvii. 11.



August 4.

THEN the Lord called Samuel, and Samuel answered,
Speak; for thy servant heareth. — *1 Sam.* iii. 10.

WHEN little Samuel woke,
And heard his Maker's voice,
At every word he spoke,
How much did he rejoice!
Oh, blessed, happy child, to find
The God of heaven so near and kind!

If God would speak to me,
And say he was my friend,
How happy I should be!
Oh, how would I attend!
The smallest sin I then should fear,
If God almighty were so near.

And does he never speak?
Oh, yes; for, in his word,
He bids me come and seek
The God that Samuel heard.
In almost every page I see
The God of Samuel calls to me.

And I beneath his care
May safely rest my head;
I know that God is there
To guard my humble bed.
And every sin I well may fear,
Since God almighty is so near.

Like Samuel let me say,
Whene'er I read his word,
"Speak, Lord; I would obey
The voice that I have heard.
And when I in thy house appear,
Speak, for thy servant waits to hear."

JANE TAYLOR.

August 5.

THEN said the Lord unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law or no.

And it shall come to pass, that on the sixth day they shall prepare that which they bring in; and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily.

And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, In the morning ye shall be filled with bread ; and ye shall know that I am the Lord your God.

And it came to pass that in the morning the dew lay round about the host.

And when the dew that lay was gone up, behold, upon the face of the wilderness there lay a small round thing, as small as the hoar frost on the ground.

And when the children of Israel saw it, they said one to another, It is manna. And Moses said unto them, This is the bread which the Lord hath given you to eat.

And it came to pass that on the sixth day they gathered twice as much bread ; and all the rulers of the congregation came and told Moses.

And he said unto them, This is that which the Lord hath said, To-morrow is the rest of the holy Sabbath unto the Lord. — *Ex.* xvi. 4, 5, 11-15, 22, 23.

DAY by day the manna fell :
Oh, to learn this lesson well !
Still by constant mercy fed,
Give me, Lord, my daily bread.

"Day by day," the promise reads,
"Daily strength for daily needs ;
Cast foreboding fears away,
Take the manna of to-day."

Lord, my times are in thy hand ;
All my sanguine hopes have planned,
To thy wisdom I resign,
And would mould my will to thine.

Thou my daily task shalt give,
Day by day to thee I live ;
So shall added years fulfil
Not my own, my Father's will.

JOSIAH CONDER.

To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna. — *Rev.* ii. 17.

August 6.

FOR I say to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think. — *Rom. xii. 3.*

BE not wise in thine own eyes. — *Prov. iii. 7.*

ABOVE all things, and upon all occasions, avoid speaking of yourself if it be possible. Such is the natural pride and vanity of our hearts that it perpetually breaks out, even in people of the best parts, in all the various modes and figures of egotism. But when, historically, you are obliged to mention yourself, take care not to drop one single word that can, directly or indirectly, be construed as fishing for applause. Be your character what it will, it will be known. Never imagine that what you say will varnish your defects, or add lustre to your perfections.

CHESTERFIELD'S LETTERS, 1748.

YOU shall not enumerate your brilliant acquaintances, nor tell me by their titles what books you have read. I am to infer that you keep good company by your better information and manners, and to infer your reading from the wealth and accuracy of your conversation.

EMERSON.

August 7.

A MAN should ask himself, "What good thing have I done this day." The setting sun will carry with it a portion of thy life.

HINDU

COUNT that day lost, whose low, descending sun
Views from thy hand no worthy action done.

ANON.

IF you sit down at set of sun
And count the acts that you have done,
And, counting, find
One self-denying act, one word
That eased the heart of him who heard,
One glance most kind,
That fell like sunshine where it went,—
Then you may count that day well spent.

But, if, through all the livelong day,
You've cheered no heart by yea or nay;
If through it all
You've nothing done that you can trace
That brought the sunshine to one face,
No act most small,
That helped some soul, and nothing cost,—
Then count that day as worse than lost.

ANON.

August 8.

FOR unto every one that hath shall be given and he shall have abundance, but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. — *Matt.* xxv. 29.

THE last part of this stern sentence is too shortly stated to be clear.

This is the meaning: Beware, lest by disuse you lose the gift that God gave to you, and to you alone. FOR HIM THAT CAN WIELD IT is written on every sword.

Power falls to power, as the apple to the planet.

The snowball grows faster the greater it becomes, but there must be a mass to begin with.

LAUREL crowns cleave to deserts,
And power to him who power exerts.
Hast not thy share? On winged feet,
Lo! it rushes thee to meet;
And all that Nature made thy own,
Floating in air or pent in stone,
Will rive the hills and swim the sea,
And, like thy shadow follow thee.

EMERSON.

August 9.

LORD, I would own thy tender care,
And all thy love to me;
The food I eat, the clothes I wear,
Are all bestowed by thee.

'T is thou preservest me from death
And dangers every hour;
I cannot draw another breath
Unless thou give me power.

Kind angels guard me every night,
As round my bed they stay;
Nor am I absent from thy sight
In darkness, or by day.

My health and friends and parents dear,
To me by God are given;
I have not any blessing here,
But what is sent from heaven.

Such goodness, Lord, and constant care,
A child can ne'er repay;
But may it be my daily prayer,
To love thee and obey.

JANE TAYLOR.

As birds are made to fly and rivers to run, so the soul
is made to follow duty.

MAKE me, Lord, obedient, mild,
As becomes a little child,
All day long, in every way,
Teach me what to do and say.

August 10.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER.

FATHER of all, in every age,
In every clime, adored
By saint, by savage, or by sage,
Jehovah, Jove, or Lord ;

Thou great First Cause, least understood,
Who all my sense confined
To know but this, — that thou art good,
And that myself am blind, —

What conscience dictates to be done,
Or warns me not to do,
This teach me more than hell to shun,
That more than heaven pursue.

If I am right, thy grace impart
Still in the right to stay ;
If I am wrong, oh, teach my heart
To find that better way.

Save me alike from foolish pride,
Or impious discontent ;
At aught thy wisdom has denied,
Or aught thy goodness lent.

Teach me to feel another's woe.
To hide the fault I see :
The mercy I to others show
That mercy show to me.

This day be bread and peace my lot —
 All else beneath the sun
 Thou know'st if best bestowed or not,
 And let thy will be done.

To thee, whose temple is all space,
 Whose altar, earth, sea, skies —
 One chorus let all being raise !
 All nature's incense rise !

POPE.

BEFORE they call I will answer ; and while they are yet speaking I will hear. — *Isa.* lxxv. 24.

August 11.

LET the mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus. — *Phil.* ii. 5.

JESUS Christ, my Lord and Saviour ;
 Once became a child like me ;
 O, that in my whole behaviour
 He my pattern still may be !

If my feelings are not holy,
 Pride and passion dwell within ;
 But the Lord was meek and lowly,
 And was never known to sin.

While I 'm often vainly trying
 Some new pleasure to possess, —
 He was always self-denying,
 Patient in his worst distress.

Lord, assist a feeble creature,
 Guide me by thy word of truth ;
 Condescend to be my teacher
 Through my childhood and my youth.

JANE TAYLOR.

August 12.

WE bless thee for this sacred day, —
Thou who hast every blessing given, —
Which sends the dreams of earth away,
And yields a glimpse of opening heaven.

Rich day of holy, thoughtful rest,
May we improve thy calm repose,
And, in God's service truly blest,
Forget the world, its joys, its woes !

Lord, may thy truth upon the heart
Now fall and dwell as heavenly dew,
And flowers of grace in freshness start,
Where once the weeds of error grew !

May prayer now lift her sacred wings,
Contented with that aim alone
Which bears her to the King of kings,
And rests her at his sheltering throne !

CAROLINE GILMAN.

COME, let us praise God, for he is exceeding great ;
let us bless God for he is very good.

He made all things ; the sun to rule the day, the
moon to shine by night.

He made the great whale, and the elephant, and the
little worm that crawleth on the ground.

The little birds sing praises to God when they warble
sweetly in the green shade.

The brooks and rivers praise God when they murmur
melodiously amongst the smooth pebbles.

I will praise God with my voice ; for I may praise
him, though I am but a little child.

A few years ago, and I was a little infant, and my
tongue was dumb within my mouth ;

And I did not know the great name of God, for my
reason was not come unto me.

But now I can speak, and my tongue shall praise him.

I can think of all his kindness, and my heart shall love him.

Let him call me, and I will come unto him: let him command and I will obey him.

When I am older, I will praise him better; and I will never forget God, so long as my life remaineth in me.

MRS. BARBAULD.

August 13.

THE LITTLE PILGRIM.

THERE is a path that leads to God
All others go astray,
Narrow, but pleasant is the road,
And Christians love the way.

It leads straight through this world of sin,
And dangers must be passed;
But those who boldly walk therein
Will get to heaven at last.

How shall an infant pilgrim dare
This dangerous path to tread?
For on the way is many a snare
For youthful travellers spread;

While the broad road where thousands go
Lies near, and opens fair;
And many turn aside, I know,
To walk with sinners there.

But, lest my feeble steps should slide
Or wander from thy way,
Lord, condescend to be my guide,
And I shall never stray.

Then I may go without alarm,
 And trust his word of old :
 "The lambs he 'll gather with his arm,
 And lead them to the fold."

Thus I may safely venture through,
 Beneath my shepherd's care ;
 And keep the gate of heaven in view
 Till I shall enter there.

JANE TAYLOR.

O SEND out thy light and thy truth ; let them lead me ; let them bring me unto thy holy hill. — *Ps. xliii. 3.*



August 14.

"YOUR master never taught you a truer thing," said John ; "there is no religion without love, and people may talk as much as they like about their religion, *but if it does not teach them to be good and kind to man and beast, it is all a sham, all a sham, James,* and it won't stand when things come to be turned inside out, and put down for what they are."

BLACK BEAUTY.

HE prayeth best who loveth best all things both great and small ;
 For the dear God who loveth us, he made and loveth all.

COLERIDGE.

GREAT love through smallest channels will find its secret way ;
 It waits not state occasions which may not come, or may ;
 It comforts and it blesses, hour by hour and day by day.

IF we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us. — *1 John iv. 12.*

August 15.

ALL EQUAL BEFORE GOD.

IN all well-to-do families are the poorer, the dependents, the servants. How should you regard them?

In the first place, never think of them as belonging to a *class*, and attribute to them the sentiments and views of a class, but think of them as *individuals*, with their special traits and characteristics, needing careful insight and study. It is as unjust and absurd to say, "Servants always feel so and so" as it would be to say, "Ladies always do this or that," or "Merchants always look at such and such things from one point of view."

Treat them with the same consideration and sympathy and Christian politeness which you show all your friends. As members of your family circle, their well-being and interests should be more sacred to you than those of outsiders.

Never make allusion to acts of carelessness or stupidity *before others*. If it is ever necessary to find fault, let it be "between thee and him alone."

Show an interest in them. Encourage them to read good or instructive or entertaining books. Consider the influence of a faithful servant in a household. *They give far more than they receive*. When rich and poor come into a closer common understanding of each other, through mutual services of love and friendliness, the sad questions which trouble us to-day will cease.

S. I. L.

ALL men are equal in their birth,
Heirs of the earth and skies ;
All men are equal when that earth
Fades from their dying eyes.

HARRIET MARTINEAU.

If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself, ye do well ; but if ye have respect of persons ye commit sin.—*James ii. 8, 9.*

August 16.

HE that is down need fear no fall;
He that is low, no pride;
He that is humble ever shall
Have God to be his guide.

I am content with what I have,
Little be it, or much;
And, Lord, contentment still I crave,
Because thou savest such.

Fulness, to such, a burden is,
That go on pilgrimage;
Here little, and hereafter bliss
Is best from age to age.

JOHN BUNYAN.

SINCE you cannot have what you wish, wish for what you can have.

TERENCE.

SEEK ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you. —
Matt. vi. 33.

August 17.

NOW, before I run to play,
Let me not forget to pray
To God who kept me through the night
And waked me with the morning light.

Help me, Lord, to love thee more
Than I ever loved before.
In my work and in my play,
Be thou with me through the day.

My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord ; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.

Let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice ; let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee.

For thou, Lord, wilt bless the righteous ; with favor wilt thou compass him as with a shield. — *Ps. v. 3, 11, 12.*

August 18.

FIGHT the good fight of faith ; lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called. — *1 Tim. vi. 12.*

A CHARGE to keep I have,
A God to glorify ;
A never-dying soul to save,
And fit it for the sky ;
To serve the present age,
My calling to fulfil :
Oh may it all my powers engage
To do my Master's will !

Arm me with jealous care,
As in thy sight to live ;
And, oh, thy servant, Lord, prepare
The strict account to give !
Help me to watch and pray,
And on thyself rely, —
Assured, if I my trust betray,
I shall forsaken die.

C. WESLEY.

BELIEVE this, — that each of us has been created for a special work ; that each is an essential part of the great whole ; and that, as the soul is unfolded and we are developed more and more, we shall find ourselves here for a special mission.

August 19.

THE LORD'S DAY.

THIS is the Lord's own day,
The Sabbath of the Lord;
Now I must leave my play,
And read and hear his word :
That word which makes the simple wise,
And tells of joys above the skies.

We keep one day in seven,
The day that God hath blest ;
The Sabbath day is given
That man and beast may rest ;
Now all that live from toil should cease,
And we should seek our God in peace.

Now with glad heart we go
Into the house of prayer,
That we his will may know,
And pray and praise him there.
For Jesus rose again this day,
And now to heaven he shows the way.

Lord Jesus ! teach me how
To keep thy holy day ;
Let thy good spirit now
Help me to sing and pray ;
And may the Lord's day ever be
A glad and happy day to me.

THE glorious sun is set in the west ; the night dews fall ; and the air, which was sultry, becomes cool.

The flowers fold up their colored leaves ; they fold themselves up, and hang their heads on the slender stalk.

The chickens are gathered under the wing of the hen, and are at rest ; the hen herself is at rest also.

The little birds have ceased their warbling, they are asleep on the boughs, each one has his head behind his wing.

There is no murmur of bees around the hive, or among the honeyed woodbines; they have done their work, and lie close in their waxen cells.

The sheep rest upon their soft fleeces, and their loud bleating is no more heard amongst the hills.

There is no sound of a number of voices or of children at play, or the trampling of busy feet, or of people hurrying to and fro.

The smith's hammer is not heard upon the anvil; nor the harsh saw of the carpenter.

All men are stretched on their quiet beds; and the child sleeps upon the breast of its mother.

Darkness is spread over the skies, and darkness is upon the ground; every eye is shut and every hand is still.

Who taketh care of all people when they are sunk in sleep, — when they cannot defend themselves, nor see if danger approacheth?

There is an eye that never sleepeth; there is an eye that seeth in dark night as well as in the bright sunshine.

When there is no light of the sun, nor of the moon; when there is no lamp in the house, nor any little star twinkling through the thick clouds; that eye seeth everywhere, in all places, and watcheth continually over all the families of the earth.

The eye that sleepeth not is God's; His hand is always stretched out over us.

He made sleep to refresh us when we were weary; he made night that we might sleep in quiet.

MRS. BARBAULD.

August 20.

GOD is with thee in all that thou doest.— *Gen.* xxi. 22.

THREE things to have constantly in mind : first, Live always as in the presence of God ; secondly, Tell him all your needs, and ask him for what you wish ; thirdly, Believe that all that you have is given you by him because it is best for you.

EVENING HYMN.

ANOTHER day its course hath run,
And still, O God, thy child is blest ;
For thou hast been by day my sun,
And thou wilt be by night my rest.

Sweet sleep descends my eyes to close ;
And now, when all the world is still,
I give my body to repose,
My spirit to my Father's will.

JOHN PIERPONT.

August 21.

GOD cares for every little child
That on this large earth liveth ;
He gives them home and food and clothes,
And more than these God giveth.

He gives them all their loving friends,
He gives each child its mother ;
He gives them all the happiness
Of loving one another.

He makes the earth all beautiful;
He makes thine eyes to see;
And touch and hearing, taste and smell,
He gives them all to thee.

What can a little child give God?
From his bright heavens above
The great God smiles and reaches down
To take his children's love.

I WILL praise thy name for thy loving-kindness. —
Ps. cxxxviii. 2.

HAVE you ever noticed how much of Christ's life was spent in doing kind things, in *merely* doing kind things? You will find that he spent a great part of his time simply in making people happy, in doing good turns to people. God has put in our power the happiness of those about us, and that is largely to be secured by our being kind to them. "The greatest thing," says some one, "a man can do for his Heavenly Father is to be kind to some of his other children." Love is happiness. Love is life. Therefore love one another.

DRUMMOND.

August 22.

SERVANT of God, well done; well hast thou fought
The better fight, who single hast maintained
Against revolted multitudes the cause
Of truth, in word mightier than they in arms;
And for the testimony of truth hast borne
Universal reproach, far worse to bear
Than violence: for this was all thy care,
To stand approved in sight of God, though worlds
Judged thee perverse.

MILTON.

STUDY to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed. — 2 *Tim.* ii. 15.

THERE is a great pleasure in the exercise of the body, in making the heart beat and the limbs glow in a run by the sea-side, or a game in the playground ; but this is nothing to the pleasure there is in exercising one's soul in bearing pain ; in finding one's heart glow with the hope that one is pleasing to God.

HARRIET MARTINEAU.

August 23.

THE VOYAGE.

HAPPY the child who early steers,
Like a trim vessel, straight for heaven !
Who Christian colors bravely rears,
And keeps the course that God has given.

Life is the ocean ; years the tide,
That floats ten thousand barques along ;
Sins are the rocks on every side,
Where passion drives a current strong.

Pleasure, that looks so bright and fair,
Is like the shallows set with sands ;
And many a wreck, forlorn and bare,
Lies weltering on those deadly strands !

Faith is the compass, firm and true,
Whose needle points to Christ, the Pole ;
The Star of stars will guide us through
Tho' winds may beat, and waves may roll !

Scripture's the chart by which we sail ;
Our souls the freight, of worth untold ;
God sends his grace, a prosperous gale,
And makes his promise anchor hold.

Happy the child who, outward bound,
Steers straight for heaven from earth and sin ;
Wise merchantmen may we be found,
And this safe voyage at once begin.

ANN TAYLOR.

If you accept pure thoughts as inspirations from the Supreme Intelligence, obey them when they prescribe difficult duties, because they come only so long as they are used ; if you have no confidence in any foreign mind, then be brave, because there is one good opinion which must always be important to you, — namely, your own.

EMERSON.

FOR the victory of battle standeth not in the multitude of an host, but strength cometh from heaven. —
1 *Mac.* iii. 19.

August 24.

CONDUCT IN COMPANY.

A BEAUTIFUL behavior is better than a beautiful form ; it is the finest of the fine arts.

EMERSON.

SINCERITY is the first rule to observe in society. Be *yourself*, do not try to imitate the manners or speech, or take up the subjects of others. No traits are of more value in company than sincerity and simplicity. Put your heart and mind into your conversation, and not the small talk which is meaningless. Be truthful, but do not consider it sincere to say rude things. Love must bear its part in your talk, as well as truth, and one

can be sincere and yet withhold what will give needless pain.

Self-control is most important in society. Keep under strict guard any tendency to become boisterous or excited, and if you are witty, do not let your desire to entertain make you forget that smart and bright speeches often wound. Society is for pleasure and relaxation; let your effort be therefore for gentleness, which is restful.

Courtesy is a necessity. Be always tender and considerate, never exacting. Do not think how others are treating you; think mainly how you shall treat others. Perfect courtesy includes the disinterestedness that thinks of the pleasure to be given, not received.

Look out that every shy, awkward, or disagreeable person has a share in the good time.

One good mother so taught her children that when they had neglected these little social duties, she exclaimed with emphatic pathos, "Oh, my children, you've lost your opportunity."

How many are the lost opportunities of our social life! If there is awkwardness or rudeness on the part of others, it is your *chance* to be a lady or a gentleman.

If you giggle or wink at others or do not hasten to shield mistakes from notice, you have *lost your opportunity*.

In young company, do not join a little clique or separate yourselves from your elders altogether, though there may be times when it is desirable. But the young need the standard of refined and peaceful manners furnished by their elders, and also the benefit of wise and superior conversation. And the elders, wearied with care, need the hilarity of young company for stimulus and cheer.

Do not keep late hours. No girl or boy under twenty should be in company later than nine o'clock,

except on the rarest occasions. Do not overdress ; it makes those who cannot feel out of place in your society. Do not carry the best of fun to excess. The most innocent dancing and games become wicked when too long indulged.

Do not play kissing games. A kiss is too sacred to be a plaything.

If you carry your sincerity, your courtesy, your cheerfulness into society, and leave behind your moroseness, jealousy, affectation, and rudeness, you will help to bring about the kingdom of God on earth by creating a genial and kindly atmosphere, in which goodness becomes contagious.

F. B. A. and S. I. L.

So let our lips and lives express
The holy gospel we profess ;
So let our works and virtues shine,
To prove the doctrine all divine.

ISAAC WATTS.

August 25.

WHOSO feareth is not made perfect in love. Perfect love casteth out fear. — 1 *John*. iv. 18.

THEY who seek the throne of grace,
Find that throne in every place
If we live a life of prayer,
God is present everywhere.

In our sickness or our health,
In our want or in our wealth,
If we look to God in prayer,
God is present everywhere.

When our earthly comforts fail,
 When the foes of life prevail,
 'T is the time for earnest prayer.
 God is present everywhere.

Then, my soul, in every strait
 To thy Father come and wait;
 He will answer every prayer,
 God is present everywhere.

HE that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth. — *Matt.* vii. 8.



August 26.

IT is the Lord, let him do what seemeth good. —
I Sam. iii. 18.

WHO shall ascend into the hill of the Lord, or who shall stand in his holy place?

He that hath clean hands and a pure heart; he shall receive the blessing from the Lord. — *Psa.* xxiv. 3, 4, 5.

Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling and present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy; to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen. — *Jude* 24, 25.

OH, draw me, Father, after thee,
 So shall I run and never tire;
 With gracious words still comfort me;
 Be thou my hope, my sole desire;
 Free me from every weight; nor fear
 Nor sin can come, if thou art here.

From all eternity, with love
 Unchangeable thou hast me viewed ;
 Ere knew this beating heart to move,
 Thy tender mercies me pursued ;
 Ever with me may they abide,
 And close me in on every side.

In suffering, be thy love my peace ;
 In weakness, be thy love my power ;
 And when the storms of life shall cease,
 My God ! in that transcendent hour,
 In death as life be thou my guide,
 And bear me thro' death's whelming tide.

JOHN WESLEY.

August 27.

L ORD, teach a little child to pray,
 And oh, accept my prayer ;
 Thou canst hear all the words I say,
 For thou art everywhere.

A little sparrow cannot fall
 Unnoticed, Lord, by thee ;
 And though I am so young and small
 Thou dost take care of me.

Teach me to do whate'er is right,
 And when I sin, forgive ;
 And make it still my chief delight.
 To serve thee while I live.

I WILL not fail thee, nor forsake thee. Be strong
 and of a good courage. — *Josh.* 1, 5, 6.

IN quietness and in confidence shall be your strength.
 — *Isa.* xxx. 15.

August 28.

IT is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O Most High.

To show forth thy loving-kindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night.

For thou, Lord, hast made me glad through thy work ; I will triumph in the works of thy hands. — *Ps.* xcii. 4.

GOD IS GOOD AND KIND.

How very kind is God to me !
Look where I may, his gifts I see ;
The food I eat, the clothes I wear,
Are tokens of my Maker's care.

He guards me both by day and night.
It is his sun that gives me light,
And while in sleep my rest I take,
He keeps me safely till I wake.

When I am ill he knows my pain,
And often makes me well again,
When I am well, he keeps me so ;
And all I have to him I owe.

Lord, let thy tender love to me
Draw forth my heart in love to thee ;
Love that shall lead me to obey,
And serve and praise thee day by day.

MY OWN LITTLE HYMN-BOOK.

August 29.

GOD might have made the earth bring forth
 Enough for great and small ;
 The oak-tree and the cedar-tree,
 Without a flower at all.

He might have made enough, enough
 For every want of ours ;
 For luxury, medicine, and toil,
 And yet have made no flowers.

Then wherefore, wherefore were they made,
 And dyed with rainbow light,
 All fashioned with supremest grace,
 Up-springing day and night ?

Our outward life requires them not ;
 Then, wherefore had they birth ?
 To minister delight to man ;
 To beautify the earth ;

To comfort man, to whisper hope
 Whene'er his faith is dim ;
 For whoso careth for the flowers
 Will care much more for him.

MARY HOWITT.

CONSIDER the lilies of the field, how they grow : they
 toil not, neither do they spin.

And yet I say unto you, that even Solomon in all his
 glory was not arrayed like one of these.

Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field,
 which to-day is, and to-morrow is cast into the oven,
 shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little
 faith ? — *Matt. vi. 28.*

THERE is a lesson in each flower,
 A story in each stream and bower,
 On every herb on which you tread
 Are written words which, rightly read,
 Will lead you from earth's fragrant sod
 To hope and holiness and God.

August 30.

THAT which being found in all sound natures and strongest in the best and most gifted men, we know has been implanted by the Creator of men. It is a commandment at every moment, and in every condition of life, to do the duty of that moment, and to abstain from doing the wrong.

EMERSON.

THE common problem, yours, mine, every one's
Is not to fancy what were fair in life
Provided it could be; but finding first
What may be, then find how to make it fair
Up to our means.

ROBERT BROWNING.

FOR thou art my rock and my fortress; therefore for thy name's sake, lead me and guide me. — *Ps.* xxxi. 3.

August 31.

HE that loveth not knoweth not God, for God is love.

If we love one another God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us. — *1 John* ix. 8, 12.

My mother! dearest mother!
She loved me long ago;
There is on earth no other
That ever loved me so.
I ought to try to please her,
And all her words to mind;
And never vex or tease her
Nor speak a word unkind.

When she is ill, to tend her
My daily care shall be
Such help as I can render,
Will all be joy to me.
Though I can ne'er repay her,
For all her tender care,
I 'll honor and obey her,
While God our lives shall spare.

MY OWN LITTLE HYMN-BOOK.

I AWOKE this morning with devout thanksgiving for
my friends, the old and the new. Shall I not call God
the Beautiful, who daily showeth himself so to me in his
gifts?

EMERSON.

THEN, brother-man, fold to thy heart thy brother;
For where love dwells, the peace of God is there:
To worship rightly is to love each other,
Each smile a hymn, each kindly deed a prayer.

WHITTIER.

THE only way to have a friend is to be one.

EMERSON.

September 1.

IN God is my salvation and my glory : the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God.

Trust in him at all times ; ye people, pour out your heart before him. God is a refuge for us. — *Ps.* lxii. 7, 8.

PRAYER.

PRAYER is the soul's sincere desire,
Uttered or unexpressed ;
The motion of a hidden fire,
That trembles in the breast.

Prayer is the burden of a sigh,
The falling of a tear ;
The upward glancing of the eye,
When none but God is near.

Prayer is the simplest form of speech
That infant lips can try ;
Prayer the sublimest strains that reach
The Majesty on high.

Prayer is the Christian's vital breath,
The Christian's native air ;
His watchword at the gates of death,
He enters heaven with prayer.

O thou by whom we come to God, —
The Life, the Truth, the Way !
The path of prayer thyself hast trod ;
Lord, teach us how to pray.

JAMES MONTGOMERY.

EVERY soul has the tendency to look up to some spiritual power higher than itself.

JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE.

September 2.

IT pleased Darius to set over the kingdom an hundred and twenty princes, which should be over the whole kingdom ;

And over these three presidents, of whom Daniel was first ; that the princes might give accounts unto them, and the king should have no damage.

Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him ; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm.

Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom ; but they could find none occasion nor fault ; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him.

Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God.

Then these presidents and princes assembled together to the king, and said thus unto him, King Darius, live forever.

All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counsellors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any god or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions.

Now, O king, establish the decree, and sign the writing, that it be not changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not.

Wherefore King Darius signed the writing and the decree.

Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed he

went into his house ; and, his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God.

Then they came near, and spake before the king concerning the king's decree ; Hast thou not signed a decree, that every man that shall ask a petition of any god or man within thirty days, save of thee, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions ? The king answered and said, The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not.

Then answered they and said before the king, That Daniel, which is of the children of the captivity of Judah, regardeth not thee, O king, nor the decree that thou hast signed, but maketh his petition three times a day.

Then the king when he heard these words, was sore displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him ; and he labored till the going down of the sun to deliver him.

Then these men assembled unto the king, and said unto the king, Know, O king, that the law of the Medes and Persians is, That no decree nor statute which the king establisheth may be changed.

Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God, whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.

And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den ; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords ; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel.

Then the king went to his palace, and passed the night fasting : neither were instruments of music brought before him : and his sleep went from him.

Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions.

And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: and the king spake and said unto Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?

Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live forever.

My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.

Then was the king exceeding glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God.

And the king commanded, and they brought those men which had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions, them, their children, and their wives; and the lions had the mastery of them, and brake all their bones in pieces or ever they came at the bottom of the den.

Then King Darius wrote unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you.

I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel; for he is the living God, and steadfast forever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end.

He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.

So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius, and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian. — *Dan.* vi.

September 3.

MIGHTY Spirit, gracious Guide,
Let thy light in us abide;
Ever walking by thy side,
Grant us heavenly love !

Love is kind, and suffers long;
Love is meek, and thinks no wrong;
Love than death itself more strong;
Therefore give us love.

BISHOP CHRISTOPHER WORDSWORTH.

LOVE is of God ; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. — 1 *John* iv. 6.

Do we comprehend the power of love, when it truly reigns in us ; how it encircles us with an atmosphere, pervades those around us, melts down resistance, soothes excitement ? A mighty love, showing itself in the eye, in the voice, in the form, what can it not accomplish ? Should we not raise ourselves to this state of calm intense-ness of love ? No man knows the measure of his influence till this force abides in him. Christ's life was a revelation of the spiritual love which filled him. Such a love, and such a life, should be sought by us.

CHANNING.

September 4.

LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle ? who shall dwell in thy holy hill ?

He that walketh uprightly and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.

He that slandereth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbor.

In whose eyes a vile person is contemned ; but he honoreth them that fear the Lord. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not.

He that doeth these things shall never fall. — *Ps.* xv.

A PATH, A RACE.

LIFE is a path that leads
From time and earth away ;
At first, through flowery meads,
With prospects green and gay,
Then, climbing many a rugged height,
Over strange hills, it goes from sight.

Life is a race to run,
And heaven the distant prize ;
By few the crown is won ;
For few are truly wise ;
The things of this short life they choose ;
The endless life of heaven — refuse !

JANE TAYLOR.

WE sell the thrones of angels for a short and turbulent pleasure.

EMERSON.

September 5.

LET not my heart incline to any evil thing. — *Ps.*
cxli.

THE sun has just finished his race,
The race of a long summer's day,
And wherever his journey has been
Has done good every inch of the way.

Let this make me think of myself,
Whether I have improved every hour,
And like the unwearied sun,
Done every good thing in my power.

And when a new morning's begun,
I will try to begin with it too,
To be better than ever I was,
And all that I'm bid I will do.

It is by coming to God every day, and trusting in him, leaning on his help, believing in his providence, conversing with him in prayer, that we come to be, at last, as certain of God's presence and love as of our own existence.

JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE.

LABOR to keep alive in your breast that little spark of celestial fire called conscience.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

September 6.

AND they brought young children to him, that he should touch them ; and his disciples rebuked those that brought them.

But when Jesus saw it, he said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not ; for of such is the kingdom of God.

And he took them up in his arms, and put his hands upon them and blessed them. — *Mark* x. 13, 14, 16.

I THINK when I read the sweet story of old
When Jesus was here among men,
He called little children as lambs to his fold —
I should like to have been with them then.
I wish that his hands had been placed on my head,
That his arms had been thrown around me ;
And that I might have seen his kind look when he said,
“ Let the little ones come unto me.”

Yet still to his footstool in faith I may go,
And there ask for a share of his love :
And I know if I earnestly seek him below,
I shall see him and hear him above —
In that beautiful place, he is gone to prepare,
For all those who are blessed and forgiven ;
And many dear children are gathering there,
“ For of such is the kingdom of heaven.”

CHRIST said, He that keepeth my commandments, he it is that loveth me. Obey him and you must love him. Live after Christ, in his spirit, as in his presence, and it is difficult to think what more you can do.

DRUMMOND.

September 7.

MY HAPPY HOME.

HOME is a happy place to me,
The place where most I love to be;
For there true love and joy I find,
And all that's dear, and all that's kind.

To come from school at close of day,
From walks abroad, or from my play,
At the fireside, in love to meet
Brother and sister — this is sweet.

To climb upon my father's knee,
My mother's smiling face to see,
And feel her kind and dear embrace,
Oh! this makes home a happy place.

Kind looks, kind words, and love sincere
Make home to me a place so dear;
Then let me ever try, by these,
To cheer and bless, to serve and please.

MY OWN LITTLE HYMN BOOK.

LEARN first to show piety at home and to requite your parents; for that is good and acceptable before God. —
1 *Tim.* v. 4.

A GREAT many sins bring their own punishment in this life pretty clearly, and sometimes pretty closely; but few more directly or more bitterly than rebellion against the duties, and ingratitude for the blessings of home.

LOB LIE-BY-THE-FIRE.

September 8.

O GOD, thou art my God alone;
Early to thee my soul shall cry,
A pilgrim in a land unknown,
A thirsty land, whose springs are dry.

Yet through the rough and thorny maze,
I follow hard on thee, my God;
Thine hand unseen upholds my ways,
I lean upon thy staff and rod.

Thee in the watches of the night,
When I remember on my bed,
Thy presence makes the darkness light;
Thy guardian wings are round my head.

Better than life itself thy love,
Dearer than all beside to me;
For whom have I in heaven above,
Or what on earth, compared with thee.

Praise with my heart, my mind, my voice,
For all thy mercy, I will give;
My soul shall still in God rejoice;
My tongue shall bless thee while I live.

JAMES MONTGOMERY.

BECAUSE thy loving-kindness is better than life, my lips
shall praise thee;

When I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on
thee in the night watches.

Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the
shadow of thy wings will I rejoice. — *Ps.* lxi. 3, 6, 7.

September 9.

BEHOLD the shepherd of the flock ; he taketh care for his sheep ; he leadeth them among clear brooks ; he guideth them to fresh pasture ; if the young lambs are weary, he carrieth them in his arms ; if they wander, he bringeth them back.

But who is the shepherd's Shepherd ? who taketh care for him ? who guideth him in the path he should go ? and if he wander, who shall bring him back ? God is the shepherd's Shepherd. He is the Shepherd over all ; he taketh care of all ; the whole earth is his fold ; we are all his flock, and every herb, and every green field is the pasture which he hath prepared for us.

The mother loveth her little child ; she bringeth it up on her knees ; she nourisheth its body with food ; she feedeth its mind with knowledge ; if it is sick, she nurseth it with tender love ; she watcheth over it when asleep ; she forgetteth it not for a moment ; she teacheth it how to be good ; she rejoiceth daily in its growth.

But who is the parent of the mother ? who nourisheth her with good things, and watcheth over her with tender love, and remembereth her every moment ? Whose arms are about her to guard her from harm ? and if she is sick, who shall heal her ?

God is the parent of the mother ; he is the parent of all, for he created all. All the men and all the women who are alive in the wide world are his children ; he loveth all, he is good to all.

The king governeth his people ; he hath a golden crown upon his head and the royal sceptre in his hand ; he sitteth upon a throne, and sendeth forth his demands ; his subjects fear before him ; if they do well, he protect-

eth them from danger ; and if they do evil he punisheth them.

But who is the Sovereign of the king? His crown is of rays of light, and his throne is amongst the stars. He is King of kings, and Lord of lords ; if he biddeth us live, we live ; and if he biddeth us die, we die. His dominion is over all worlds, and the light of his countenance is upon all his works.

God is our Shepherd ; therefore we will follow him ; God is our Father, therefore we will love him ; God is our King, therefore we will obey him.

MRS. BARBAULD.

THE Lord is my shepherd ; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures ; he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul ; he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. — *Ps. xxiii. 1, 2, 3.*



September 10.

MIGHTY is the power we constantly give and receive
by means of unconscious influence.

LATE to our town there came a maid,
A noble woman, true and pure,
Who in the little while she stayed,
Wrought works that shall endure.

Her little motions when she spoke,
The presence of an upright soul,
The living light that from her broke,
It was the perfect whole.

And she to many spirits gave
A reverence for the true, the pure,
The perfect, — that has power to save,
And make the doubting sure.

For as she trod her path aright,
Power from her very garments stole ;
E'en such is the mysterious might
God grants the upright soul.

A deed, a word, our careless rest,
A simple thought, a common feeling,
If he be present in the breast,
Has from him powers of healing.

F. H. PERKINS.

FEAR God, and where you go men shall think they
walk in hallowed cathedrals.

EMERSON.

September 11.

THE fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace. — *Gal. v. 22.*

It is related of the monk Basle that, being excommunicated by the Pope, he was, at his death, sent in charge of an angel to find a fit place of suffering in hell ; but such was the eloquence and good-humor of the monk that wherever he went he was received gladly and civilly treated, even by the most uncivil angels ; and when he came to discourse with them, instead of contradicting or forcing him, they took his part, and adopted his manners ; and even good angels came from far to see him and take up their abode with him.

The angel that was sent to find a place of torment for him attempted to remove him to a worse pit, but with

no better success ; for such was the contented spirit of the monk that he found something to praise in every place and company, though in hell, and made a kind of heaven of it. At last, the escorting angel returned with his prisoner to them that sent him, saying that no phlegethon could be found that would burn him. The legend says his sentence was remitted, and he was allowed to go into heaven and was canonized as a saint.

EMERSON.

OFt have I heard, and deem the witness true,
Whom man delights in, God delights in too.



September 12.

BLESSED is he that overcometh, and keepeth my words unto the end.

And I will give him the morning star. — *Rev. ii. 26, 28.*

WHO struggles with his baser part,
Who conquers and is free,
He may not wear a hero's crown
Or fill a hero's grave,
But truth will place his name among
The bravest of the brave.

LOOK not on wrong, nor let the Tempter dare
To find a back way up into thy heart,
And open all his cursed tempting ware
To bargain with thee for thy better part.

Thou hast no secrets that are hid from God ;
Thine inmost places by his feet are trod.
Hast thou sin there ? it lies before his sight ;
Die, if thou must, but cast it from thee quite.

ROBERT LOWELL.

By the ancients courage was regarded as practically the main part of virtue ; by us, though I hope we are not less brave, purity is so regarded now.

Courage, however kindled, is fanned by the breath of man ; purity lives and derives its life solely from the spirit of God.

HARE.

September 13.

MAY God give us grace and faith and courage and ambition always to be ready to pass on and up to higher kinds of life, to new kingdoms of heaven as he shall open them to us forever.

PHILLIPS BROOKS.

BUILD thee more stately mansions, O my soul,
As the swift seasons roll !
Leave thy low-vaulted past !
Let each new temple, nobler than the last,
Shut thee from heaven with a dome more vast,
Till thou at length art free,
Leaving thine out-grown shell by life's unresting sea !

O. W. HOLMES.

THE path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day. — *Prov.* iv. 18.

September 14.

LOVE is of God ; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. — 1 *John* iv. 7.

BE diligent, after thy power, to do deeds of love. Think nothing too little, nothing too low to do lovingly for the sake of God. Bear with infirmities, ungentle tempers, contradictions ; forego thyself and thine own ways for love, and He whom in them thou lovest, to whom in them thou ministerest, will own thy love, and will pour his own love into thee.

E. B. PUSEY.

THE simplest flowers with honied sweets are stored,
The smallest thing may happiness afford ;
A kindly word may give a mind repose,
Which harshly spoken might have led to blows.
Nought is so small but it may good contain,
Afford us pleasure or award us pain.

LITTLE deeds of kindness,
Little words of love,
Make this earth an Eden,
Like the heaven above.

Little deeds of mercy,
Sown by youthful hands,
Grow to bless the nations
Far in other lands.

September 15.

WHILE we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal. — 2 *Cor.* iv. 18.

FAITH is the sense of the unseen, without which we could not feel God nor hope for heaven. Faith is the very life of the spirit; how shall we increase it? By living it. What little faith you have, only live it for one day, and it will be stronger to-morrow. Live with your fellow-creatures as their brother to-day, and to-morrow God will be felt by you as your Father in heaven the more tenderly. We become like the Highest through loving as our brethren all the dwellers of the whole wide earth.

EUTHANASY.

THOUGH heralded by nought of fear,
Or outward sign, or show;
Though only to the inward ear
It whisper soft and low;
Though dropping as the manna fell,
Unseen, yet from above,
Holy and gentle, heed it well —
The call to truth and love.

WHITTIER.

September 16.

JESUS said, He that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. — *John viii. 12.*

THE CHILDREN'S CREED. — *continued.*

THIS highest kindness and fairness are like what we have seen and heard of in the world. Children can see it in their good parents, their good uncles and aunts, their good brothers and sisters ; and as they grow older, they will always find that there have always been good people, and they will hear that there was once one Child, one Man, so good to all about him, so good to little children, that he has shown us better than any one else what is the true likeness of that unseen Goodness which we call God, and which we still hope to know in heaven. Children should be taught what Jesus Christ did and said when he went about doing good, and should be made to understand that only so far as we are like to Jesus Christ, or like what Jesus Christ taught when he was in the world, can we be his friends or followers.

THROUGH our upward pilgrimage,
Larger, deeper lessons learning,
May we still in labors blest,
Never tire and never rest ;
And with forces ever new,
Serve the holy and the true.

DEAN STANLEY

September 17.

THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD.

SOLDIERS of God, arise,
And put your armor on,
Strong in the strength which God supplies
To each obedient son.

Stand forth in his great might,
With all his strength endued;
But take, to arm you for the fight,
The panoply of God.

Leave no unguarded place,
No weakness of the soul;
Take every virtue, every grace,
And consecrate the whole.

CHARLES WESLEY, 1749.

LIFE is warfare, and those who climb up and down steep paths, and go through dangerous enterprises are the brave men and leaders in the camp; but to rest basely, at the cost of others' labors, is to be a coward, safe because despised.

SENECA.

OUR culture must not omit the arming of the man. Let him hear in season that he is born into the state of war.

EMERSON.

WHEREFORE take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Stand, therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness.

— *Eph.* vi. 13, 14.

September 18.

CHARITY suffereth long, and is kind ; charity envieth not ; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil. — 1 *Cor.* xiii. 4, 5.

THE divine power of love described by the apostle Paul is possible for us all. Only let the love of God and man enter the soul, and you will not find it difficult to "suffer long and be kind." It will seem a very simple thing not to envy, not to boast, not to behave unseemly, not to be always seeking your own. You become able to "bear all things" without growing angry ; to hope for all good in the midst of evil, to "endure all things" to the end, patient, because sure that the Lord reigns. This does not mean that we shall be angels, but that we shall begin, under this mighty stimulus, to grow up into all things good and right.

JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE.

BUT souls that of his own good life partake,
He loves as his own self ; dear as his eye
They are to Him. He 'll never them forsake.
When they shall die, then God himself shall die ;
They live, they live in blest eternity.

HENRY MORE.

September 19.

BEHOLD the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

For your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of these things.

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.
— *Matt. vi. 26, 32, 33.*

THOUGH troubles assail,
And dangers affright,
Though friends should all fail,
And foes all unite:
Yet one thing secures us,
Whatever betide,
The Scriptures assure us
The Lord will provide.

The birds without barn
Or storehouse are fed,
From them let us learn
To trust for our bread.
His saints, what is fitting,
Shall ne'er be denied,
So long as 't is written,
The Lord will provide.

We may, like the ships,
By tempests be tost
On perilous deeps,
But cannot be lost.
Though Satan enrages
The wind and the tide,
The promise engages
The Lord will provide.

His call we obey,
 Like Abra'm of old,
 Not knowing our way,
 But faith makes us bold ;
 For though we are strangers,
 We have a good guide,
 And trust, in all dangers,
 The Lord will provide.

JOHN NEWTON.



September 20.

SHE stretcheth out her hand to the poor ; yea, she reacheth forth her hand to the needy. — *Prov.* xxxi. 20.

SHE openeth her mouth for the dumb, and pleadeth the cause of the poor and needy. — *Prov.* xxxi. 8, 9.

As the clear light is upon the holy candlestick, so is the beauty of the face in ripe age. — *Ecclesiasticus* xxvi. 17.

BLESSED are the pure in heart ; for they shall see God. — *Matt.* v. 8.

THINE eye shall see the King in his beauty ; they shall behold the land that is very far off. — *Isa.* xxxiii. 17.

WISDOM is more moving than any motion : she passeth and goeth through all things by reason of her pureness.

For she is the breath of the power of God, and a pure influence flowing from the glory of the Almighty : and being but one she can do all things : and in all ages entering into holy souls, she maketh them friends of God.

WISDOM OF SOLOMON, vii. 24, 25, 27.

September 21.

I READ of "many mansions"
Within the House Divine;
I need not go to find them,
For one of them is mine;
God lives in mine and loves me.
Who else could bring the day,
Who spreads the sleep upon me,
Who gives me hands to play?

And when I say "Our Father,"
It seems so far to pray,
To think of heaven up yonder,
I can but turn and say:
"Dear Father, close beside me,
I feel you dimly near,
In every face that loves me,
In each kind word I hear."

His, the touch of mother's fingers,
So full of love and care;
His, the pleasantness of trying,
The help inside the prayer.
I do not understand it,
But so it seems to be;
There always is that other,
Whom I but dimly see.

WILLIAM C. GANNETT.

No man has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.

And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love, dwelleth in God, and God in him. — 1 *John* xii. 16.

September 22.

THE day is thine, the night also is thine ; thou hast prepared the light and the sun. Thou hast set all the borders of the earth ; thou hast made summer and winter. — *Ps. lxxiv. 16, 17.*

THOU art, O God, the life and light
Of all this wondrous world we see ;
Its glow by day, its smile by night,
Are but reflections caught from thee.
Where'er we turn thy glories shine,
And all things fair and bright are thine !

When day, with farewell beams, delays
Among the opening clouds of even,
And we can almost think we gaze
Through golden vistas into heaven, —
Those hues that make the sun's decline
So soft, so radiant, Lord ! are thine.

When night, with wings of starry gloom,
O'ershadows all the earth and skies,
Like some dark, beauteous bird, whose plume
Is sparkling with unnumbered eyes, —
That sacred gloom, those fires divine,
So grand, so countless, Lord ! are thine.

When youthful spring around us breathes
Thy spirit warms her fragrant sigh ;
And every flower that summer wreathes
Is born beneath that kindling eye ;
Where'er we turn, thy glories shine,
And all things fair and bright are thine !

THOMAS MOORE.

NATURE is too thin a screen ; the glory of the One
breaks in everywhere.

EMERSON.

September 23.

COME, let us go forth into the thick shade, for it is the noon of day, and the summer sun beats hot upon our heads.

The shade is pleasant and cool; the branches meet above our heads, and shut out the sun as with a green curtain; the grass is so soft to our feet, and a clear brook washes the roots of the trees.

The sloping bank is covered with flowers; let us lie down upon it; let us throw our limbs on the fresh grass and sleep; for all things are still, and we are quite alone.

The cattle lie down to sleep in the cool shade, but we can do what is better; we can raise our voices to heaven; we can praise the great God who made us.

He made the warm sun and the cool shade; the trees that grow upwards, and the brooks that run murmuring along. All the things that we see are his work.

Can we raise our voices up to the high heaven? Can we make Him hear who is above the stars? We need not raise our voices to the stars; for he heareth us when we only whisper,—when we breathe our words softly with a low voice. He that filleth the heavens is here also.

May we that are so young speak to Him that always was? May we that can hardly speak plain speak to God?

We that are so young are but lately made alive; therefore we should not forget His forming hand who hath made us alive. We that cannot speak plain should lisp our praises to him who teacheth us how to speak, and hath opened our dumb lips.

When we could not think of him, he thought of us ; before we could ask him to bless us, he had already given us many blessings.

He fashioneth our tender limbs, and causeth them to grow ; he maketh us strong, and tall, and nimble.

Every day we are more active than the former day ; therefore every day we ought to praise him better than the former day.

The buds spread into leaves, and the blossoms swell to fruit ; but they know not how they grow, nor who caused them to spring up from the bosom of the earth.

Ask them if they will tell thee ; bid them to break forth into singing, and fill the air with pleasant sounds.

They smell sweet ; they look beautiful ; but they are quite silent : no sound is in the still air ; no murmur of voices among the green leaves.

The plants and the trees are made to give fruit to man ; but man is made to praise God who made him.

We love to praise him, because he loveth to bless us ; we thank him for life, because it is a pleasant thing to be alive.

We love God, who hath created all beings ; we love all beings, because they are the creatures of God.

We cannot be good, as God is good, to all persons everywhere ; but we can rejoice that everywhere there is a God to do them good.

We will think of God when we play, and when we work ; when we walk out, and when we come in ; when we sleep, and when we wake ; his praise shall dwell continually upon our lips.

MRS. BAREAULD.

September 24.

I WILL bless the Lord who hath given me counsel. —
Ps. xvi. 7.

THE testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. — *Ps. xix. 7.*

You are rightly fond of certain books or men that you have found to excite your reverence and emulation. But none of these can compare with the greatness of that counsel which is open to you in happy solitude. I mean that there is for you the following of an inward leader, — a slow discrimination that there is for each a Best Counsel which enjoins the fit word and the fit act for every moment. And the path of each pursued leads to greatness.

EMERSON.

As earth's pageant passes by,
 Let reflection turn thine eye
 Inward, and observe thy breast;
 There alone dwells solid rest.

Say not that this house is small,
 Girt up in a narrow wall;
 In a cleanly, sober mind,
 Heaven itself full room doth find.

The infinite Creator can
 Dwell in it; and may not man?
 Here, content, make thy abode
 With thyself and with thy God.

BEAUMONT.

As you grow ready for it, somewhere or other you will find what is needful for you in a book or a friend, or best of all in your own thoughts, the eternal thought speaking to your thought.

September 25.

LEAVE God to order all thy ways,
And hope in him whate'er betide;
Thou 'lt find him in the evil days
Thy all-sufficient strength and guide.
Who trusts in God's unchanging love,
Builds on the rock that naught can move.

Sing, pray, and swerve not from his ways,
But do thine own part faithfully, —
Trust his rich promises of grace,
So shall they be fulfilled in thee;
God never yet forsook at need
The soul that trusted him indeed.

NEUMARCK.

OUR helm is given up to a better guidance than our own; the course of events is quite too strong for any helmsman, and our little wherry is taken in tow by the ship of the great Admiral, which knows the way, and has the force to draw men and states and planets to their good.

EMERSON.

THE eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms. — *Deut.* xxxiii. 27.

September 26.

THERE is no surer argument of a great mind, than not to be transported to anger by any accident ; the clouds and the tempests are formed below, but all above is quiet and serene ; which is the emblem of a brave man that suppresses all provocation and lives within himself, modest, venerable, and composed.

SENECA.

BE calm in arguing ; for fierceness makes
Error a fault and truth discourtesy.
Why should I feel another man's mistakes
More than his sicknesses or poverty ?

HERBERT.

CONTROL your temper, for if it does not obey you, it will govern you.

HORACE.

HE that is slow to wrath is of great understanding, but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly. — *Prov.* xiv. 29.

September 27.

HOW happy is he born and taught
That serveth not another's will ;
Whose armor is his honest thought,
And simple truth his utmost skill.
This man is freed from servile bands
Of hope to rise or fear to fall ;
Lord of himself tho' not of lands,
And having nothing, yet hath all.

SIR HENRY WOTTON.

THE highest compact we can make with our fellow is, "Let there be truth between us two forevermore."

It is sublime to feel and say of another, I need never meet, or speak, or write to him; we need not reinforce ourselves, or send tokens of remembrance; I rely on him as on myself; if he did thus or thus I know it was right.

EMERSON.

I HAVE no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth. — 3 *John* iv.

September 28.

THE Lord will give strength unto his people. — *Ps.*
xxix. 11.

To keep the lamp alive
With oil we fill the bowl;
'T is water makes the willow thrive,
And grace that feeds the soul.

The Lord's unsparing hand
Supplies the living stream;
It is not at our own command,
But still derived from him.

Man's wisdom is to seek
His strength in God alone;
And e'en an angel would be weak,
Who trusted in his own.

Retreat beneath his wings,
And in his grace confide;
This more exalts the King of kings
Than all your works beside.

In God is all our store,
Grace issues from his throne ;
Whoever says, " I want no more,"
Confesses he has none.

COWPER.

THOU shalt also seek strength. — *Nahum* iii. 11.

September 29.

FREELY ye have received, freely give. — *Matt.* x. 8.

Do the work that's nearest,
Tho' it's dull at whiles,
Helping, when we meet them,
Lame dogs over stiles ;
See in every hedgerow
Marks of angels' feet,
Epics in each pebble
Underneath our feet.

KINGSLEY.

It is good to think no grace or blessing is truly ours,
till we are aware that God has blessed some one with it
through us.

PHILLIPS BROOKS.

FOR we must *share* if we would keep
That blessing from above,
Ceasing to give, we cease to have :
Such is the law of love.

R. C. TRENCH.

September 30.

SHE openeth her mouth with wisdom, and in her tongue is the law of kindness. — *Prov.* xxxi. 26.

DEAR children of the Lord's,
Bethink ye of the power and might
Of lightly spoken words, —
How your words are but the signal
Of the secret heart within,
And may be a gracious token,
Or may be a deadly sin.

Your words may be a blessing
In a time of wrong or woe,
For if the fountain is kept pure,
The stream will purely flow.
And often troubled hearts are soothed
And brought to sweet accord
By "a soft answer" unto wrath
And a humble, loving word.

A word may be a blasphemy,
A word may be a lie,
A word may smirch the pure young heart
With a stain of deepest dye;
And a word may speak forgiveness
For a sore slight or wrong,
A word may be a heartfelt prayer
To God to make you strong.

In words, as well as in the heart,
Our sin may be confessed,
And words are messengers from us
To the hearts that love us best.

For blessing or for evil,
To bewilder or to teach,
For guidance or for stumbling,
A mighty power is speech ;
And before ye fall on evil ways,
Now, while your life is young,
Oh, set a guard upon your lips,
A watch upon your tongue !

MARY E. PARKMAN.

TACT is an excellent thing ; but genuine love to our neighbor, seeking to show true kindness, delicacy, and consideration, — striving, in fact, to do as it would be done by, — is as much more precious as a spiritual gift is than a natural quality.

October 1.

WHAT is it to be a gentleman? It is to be honest, to be gentle, to be generous, to be brave, to be wise ; and possessing all these qualities, to exercise them in the most graceful outward manner.

THACKERAY.

FROM yon blue heavens above us bent,
The grand old gardener and his wife
Smile at the claims of long descent.
Howe'er it be, it seems to me
'T is only noble to be good ;
Kind hearts are more than coronets,
And simple faith than Norman blood.

TENNYSON.

As true old Chaucer sang to us, so many years ago,
He is the greatest man who dares the gentlest deeds to do,
However rude his birth or state, however low his place,
He is the gentleman whose life right gentle thought doth
grace.

WHATSOEVER things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report ; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. — *Phil.* iv. 8.

IN kindness it is not enough to be good to others ; one should also learn to be gracious.

MRS. EWING.

October 2.

WITH good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men. — *Eph.* vi. 7.

THE trivial round, the common task,
Will furnish all we ought to ask, —
Room to deny ourselves, a road
To bring us daily nearer God.

Only, O Lord, in thy dear love
Fit us for perfect rest above;
And help us, this and every day,
To live more nearly as we pray.

JOHN KEBLE, 1827.

SEEK not beyond thy cottage wall
Redeemers that can yield thee all.

EMERSON.

Do the duty that is nearest thee.

CARLYLE.

October 3.

HE hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God? — *Micah* vi. 8.

THE house should bear witness in all its economy that human culture is the end to which it is built and garnished. It stands there under the sun and moon to ends analogous, and not less noble than theirs. It is not for festivity, it is not for sleep: but the pine and the oak shall gladly descend from the mountains to uphold the

roof of men as faithful and necessary as themselves ; to be the shelter always open to good and true persons, — a hall which shines with sincerity, brows ever tranquil, and a demeanor impossible to disconcert ; whose inmates know what they want ; who do not ask your house how theirs should be kept.

EMERSON.

FROM earth, and earthly toil and strife
To deathless aims his love may rise,
Each dawn may wake to better life,
With purer eyes.

Such grace from thee, O God ! be ours,
Renewed with every morning's ray,
And freshening still with added flowers,
Each future day.

JOHN STERLING.

October 4.

BE thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. — *Rev. ii. 10.*

BE firm, and be faithful ; desert not the right ;
The brave are the bolder the darker the night ;
Then up and be doing, though cowards may fail ;
Thy duty pursuing, dare all and prevail.

If scorn be thy portion, if hatred and loss,
If stripes or a prison, remember the cross !
God watches above thee, and he will requite ;
Stand firm and be faithful, desert not the right.

FOR fresh duties there will be granted all needful strength. If I am to encounter new temptations, I shall be endued with fresh resolve ; as fresh difficulties arise, there will be granted me, in answer to my prayer, wisdom from above.

October 5.

CONTINUING instant in prayer. — *Rom.* xii. 12.

LEANING on Thy tender care,
Thou hast led my soul aright:
Fervent was my morning prayer,
Joyful is my song to-night.

O my Father, Guardian true!
All my life is thine to keep;
At thy feet my work I do,
In thine arms I fall asleep.

ANNA L. WARING, 1850.

WHEN the day is done, you look thoughtfully back over it. You see something for which to be glad, something for which to be humbled. But I think to any one who faithfully tries to lead the best life he can, this thoughtful backward look over the day will come to yield more and more the sense that it is a good and blessed thing to live, and, with that sense, some irresistible motion of gratitude toward the Source and Giver of life. As one lies down to sleep, passing serenely into unconsciousness, there may well rise in the pure and reverent heart a deep trust. It yields itself to a tranquil sense of rest upon an all-sufficient stay, as naturally as the body yields itself to slumber.

I think that any one who will make a *habit* of this upward look of the heart will find the true spirit of prayer growing in himself. Real prayer is so natural to the soul it grows easily.

MERRIAM.

October 6.

LIGHT is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart. — *Ps. xcvi. 11.*

THE morning hours of cheerful light,
Of all the day are best :
But as they speed their hasty flight,
If every hour is spent aright,
We sweetly sink to sleep at night,
And pleasant is our rest.

And life is like a summer's day,
It seems so quickly past ;
Youth is the morning, bright and gay,
And if 't is spent in wisdom's way,
We meet old age without dismay,
And death is sweet at last.

JANE TAYLOR.

THAT man has had a liberal education who has been so trained in youth that his body is the ready servant of his will and does with ease and pleasure all the work that as a mechanism it is capable of ; whose mind is stored with a knowledge of the great and fundamental truths of Nature and of the laws of her operations. Who has learned to love all beauty whether of Nature or of Art, to hate all vileness, and to respect others as himself.

HUXLEY.

October 7.

SUNDAY.

CHILD, as each week there comes a pause,
A hush upon the way,
As the Sunday stillness breaks the week,
What dost thou with the day?

'T is no more the Jewish Sabbath,
With fixed rules for deed and word;
'T is the Lord's day for the Christian;
What dost thou for the Lord?

What would the Lord have of thee?
Almsdeeds and works of love,
A restless will made like to His,
And a heart that looks above.

God will receive thine offering
Of simple prayer and praise;
He will help thee, if thou strive to learn
That thou mayest keep his ways.

MARY E. PARKMAN.

TRUST in the Lord and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. — *Ps.* xxxvii. 3.

ONCE, every day in every life, some grand and noble possibility touches us lightly on the shoulder. Those who have open eyes and pure hearts see and hear and follow the leading out into some issue that sooner or later returns a glorified result. But the most of us are blind, or lost in selfish dreams, and never know that the waiting angel stood beckoning to us.

To lose a chance is to cheat one's self.

OLD-FASHIONED FAIRY TALES.

WHY do we heap huge mounds of years
Before us and behind,
And scorn the little days that pass
Like angels on the wind, —
Each turning round a small sweet face
So beautiful and fair?
Because it is so small a face
We will not see it clear,
And so it turns from us and goes
Away in sad disdain;
Tho' we would give our lives for it,
It never comes again.

MISS MULOCH.

October 8.

I SING the almighty power of God,
That made the mountains rise;
That spread the flowing seas abroad,
And built the lofty skies.

I sing the wisdom that ordained
The sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at his command,
And all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord,
That filled the earth with food;
He formed the creatures with his word,
And then pronounced them good.

Lord, how thy wonders are displayed,
Where'er I turn mine eye;
If I survey the ground I tread,
Or gaze upon the sky!

There 's not a plant or flower below,
But makes thy glories known ;
And clouds arise, and tempests blow,
By order from thy throne.

ISAAC WATTS.

O LORD, how manifold are thy works ! in wisdom hast thou made them all ; the earth is full of thy riches.

He appointeth the moon for seasons ; the sun knoweth his going down ; he giveth the stars for a light by night.

He causeth grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man ; that he may bring forth food out of the earth.

Praise ye him, sun and moon, praise him, all ye stars of light. Praise the Lord, O my soul.

The glory of the Lord shall endure forever ;

The Lord shall rejoice in his works.

I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live ; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being.

My meditation of him shall be sweet ; I will be glad in the Lord. — *Ps. civ.*



October 9.

SERVE the Lord with gladness. — *Ps. c. 2.*

IF thou art blest

Then let the sunshine of thy gladness rest

On the dark edges of each cloud that lies

Black in thy brother's skies.

If thou art sad

Still be thou in thy brother's gladness glad.

I FIND the gayest castles in the air that were ever piled far better for comfort and for use than the dungeons in the air that are daily dug and caverned out by grumbling, discontented people. I know those miserable fellows, and I hate them who see a black star always riding through the light and colored clouds in the sky overhead. But power dwells with cheerfulness; hope puts us in a working mood. A man should make life and Nature happier to us, or he had better never been born.

EMERSON.

It is an old commendation of right behavior, "Aliis lætus, sapiens sibi," which our English proverb translates, "Be merry and wise."

EMERSON.



October 10.

WHEREFORE, seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us. — *Heb. xii. 1.*

THE CHRISTIAN RACE.

AWAKE, my soul; stretch every nerve,
And press with vigor on:
A heavenly race demands thy zeal,
And an immortal crown.

A cloud of witnesses around
Hold thee in full survey.
Forget the steps already trod,
And onward urge thy way.

'T is God's all-animating voice
 That calls thee from on high;
 'T is his own hand presents the prize
 To thine uplifted eye,—

That prize, with peerless glories bright,
 Which shall new lustre boast
 When victors' wreaths and monarchs' gems
 Shall blend in common dust.

PHILIP DODDRIDGE, 1755.

Look not mournfully into the past. It comes not
 back again. Wisely improve the present. It is thine.
 Go forth to meet the shadowy future without fear, and
 with a manly heart.

FROM THE GERMAN.

Quoted by LONGFELLOW.

October II.

THE mariner of old said to Neptune in a great
 tempest, "O God! thou mayst save me if thou
 wilt, and if thou wilt thou mayst destroy me; but,
 whether or no, I will steer the rudder true."

MONTAIGNE.

HELP thyself, and God will help thee.

LA FONTAINE.

MARINER'S HYMN.

LAUNCH thy bark, mariner! Christian, God speed thee,
 Let loose the rudder bands! good angels lead thee!
 Set thy sails warily, tempests will come;
 Steer thy course steadily! Christian, steer home!

Look to the weather bow, breakers are round thee !
 Let fall the plummet now, shallows may ground thee !
 Reef in the foresail there ! hold the helm fast !
 So let the vessel wear ! there swept the blast.

What of the night, watchman ? what of the night ?
 " Cloudy — all quiet — no land yet — all 's right."
 Be wakeful, be vigilant, danger may be
 At an hour when all seemeth securest to thee.

How — gains the leak so fast ? clear out the hold !
 Hoist up the merchandise, — heave out the gold !
 There — let the ingots go ! now the ship rights ;
 Hurrah ! the harbor 's near, — lo, the red lights !

Slacken not sail yet at inlet or island,
 Straight for the beacon steer, — straight for the highland ;
 Crowd all the canvas on, cut through the foam,
 Christian, cast anchor now. Heaven is thy home !

MRS. SOUTHEY.



October 12.

MY son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not. —
Prov. i. 10.

GREAT God, my Father and my Friend,
 On whom I cast my constant care,
 On whom for all things I depend,
 To thee I raise my humble prayer.

Oh that my watchful soul may fly
 The first perceived approach of sin ;
 Look up to thee when danger 's nigh,
 And feel thy fear control within.

ANON.

THERE are two angels that attend unseen
Each one of us, and in great books record
Our good and evil deeds. He who writes down
The good ones, after every action closes
His volume and ascends with it to God,
The other keeps his dreadful day-book open
Till sunset, that we may repent; which doing
The record of the action fades away
And leaves a line of white across the page.

LONGFELLOW.

October 13.

JESUS said, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.

No man is born into the world whose work
Is not born with him. There is always work
And tools to work withal, for those who will!
And blessed are the horny hands of toil.

LOWELL.

THE crowning fortune of a man is to be born to some pursuit which finds him in employment and happiness, — whether it be to make baskets or broadswords or canals, or statues, or songs.

EMERSON.

HONOR him whose life is perpetual victory; him who, by sympathy with the invisible and real, finds support in labor, instead of praise; who does not shine, and would rather not.

EMERSON.

October 14.

AS the mother moveth about the house with her finger on her lips, and stilleth every little noise that her infant be not disturbed, as she draweth the curtains around its bed, and shutteth out the light from its tender eyes, — so God draweth the curtains around us ; so he maketh all things to be hushed and still, that his large family may sleep in peace.

Laborers, spent with toil, and young children, and every little humming insect, sleep quietly, for God watcheth over you.

You may sleep, for he never sleeps ; you may close your eyes in safety, for his eye is always open to protect you.

When the darkness is passed away, and the beams of the morning sun strike through your eyelids, begin the day with praising God, who hath taken care of you through the night.

Flowers, when you open again, spread your leaves, and smell sweet to his praise.

Birds, when you awake, warble your thanks among the green boughs ; sing to him before you sing to your mates.

Let his praise be in our hearts when we lie down ; let his praise be on our lips when we awake.

MRS. BARBAULD.

THE beautiful sun has forsaken the earth,
And finished another new day,
The birds have done singing, the hens are asleep,
And the little boy's tired of his play.

But before he lies down on his bed for the night,
He should thank his dear Father above,
For guarding his life, taking care of his health,
And for all the kind gifts of his love.

It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High.

To show forth thy loving-kindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night.

For thou, Lord, hast made me glad through thy work :
I will triumph in the works of thy hands. — *Ps.* xcii. 1,
2, 4.

October 15.

REPENTANCE.

'T IS not enough to say,
"We 're sorry, and repent,"
Yet still go on from day to day,
Just as we always went.

Repentance is to leave
The sins we loved before,
And show that we in earnest grieve,
By doing so no more.

Lord, make us thus sincere
To watch as well as pray ;
However small, however dear,
Take all our sins away.

ANN TAYLOR.

THERE are three short and simple words, the hardest of all to pronounce in any language, but which no man or nation that cannot utter can claim to have arrived at manhood. These words are, *I was wrong*.

LOWELL.

To sin no more is true repentance.

MARTIN LUTHER.

October 16.

EVENTS, decrees, circumstances will not change for just you and me ; but we can change ourselves, and so defeat them.

Do not heed untoward circumstances. "Seize hold of God's hand, and look full in the face of his creation, and there is nothing he will not enable you to achieve."

A. H. R.

NOTHING can bring you peace but yourself. Nothing can bring you peace but the triumph of principles.

EMERSON.

ARE there no foes for me to face?
Must not I stem the flood?
Is this low world a friend to grace,
To help me on to God?

Sure I must fight if I would reign,
Increase my courage, Lord ;
I'll bear the toil, endure the pain,
Supported by thy word.

ISAAC WATTS.

STRENGTHENED with might by his spirit in the inner man. — *Eph.* iii. 16.

October 17.

IF we resolve on a noble and generous direction of our life, then angels and archangels, holy and pure spirits, will be our companions and inward monitors ; for as we are inwardly, so shall we be surrounded outwardly.

JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE.

COME, gracious spirit, heavenly dove,
With light and comfort from above ;
Be thou our guardian, thou our guide :
O'er every thought and step preside.

To us the light of truth display,
And make us know and choose thy way ;
Plant holy fear in every heart,
That we from God may ne'er depart.

SIMON BROWNE.

FOR behold, the kingdom of God is within you. —
Luke xvii. 21.

October 18.

HE liveth long who liveth well ;
All else is life but flung away ;
He liveth longest who can tell
Of true things truly done each day.

Then fill each hour with what will last ;
Buy up the moments as they go ;
The life above, when this is past,
Is the ripe fruit of life below.

Sow love, and taste its fruitage pure ;
Sow peace, and reap its harvest bright ;
Sow sunbeams on the rock and moor,
And find a harvest-home of light.

H. BONAR.

CHARACTER is measured not by results, but by quality. Appearances deceive us ; God searches the motive.

Not by the little or much we do or fail to do are we judged, but by our intentions, by our fidelity or unfaithfulness. Representing the majesty of duty, no deed is trivial. It indicates loyalty or treason towards the Most High.

R. R. S.

EVERY one of us shall give account of himself to God. — *Rom. xiv. 12.*

October 19.

HE that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much ; and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. — *Luke xvi. 10.*

STEP by step lifts bad to good,
Without halting, without rest,
Lifting Better up to Best,
Planting seeds of knowledge pure,
Thro' earth to ripen, thro' heaven endure.

EMERSON.

LET us remember that we are never asked to do a duty but that power will be given us with which to do it. This year let us lean more and more on this inward inspiration ; let us be sure that this comfort, this guidance, may always be ours.

JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE.

TRUE worth is in being, not seeming,
In doing each day that goes by
Some little good, — not in the dreaming
Of great things to do by and by.

ALICE CARY.

October 20.

THE MOON.

THE moon is very fair and bright,
And rises very high;
I think it is a pretty sight
To see it in the sky;
It shone upon me where I lay,
And seemed almost as bright as day.

The stars are very pretty too,
And scattered all about;
At first they seem a very few,
But soon the rest come out.
I'm sure I could not count them all
They are so very bright and small.

The sun is brighter still than they,
He blazes in the skies;
I dare not turn my face that way
Unless I shut my eyes.
Yet when he shines our hearts revive,
And all the trees rejoice and thrive.

God is more glorious than the sun
And all the stars of light;
He made and keeps them every one,
By his own power and might.
And when we end our mortal race,
The pure in heart shall see his face.

THUS saith the Lord, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. For all those things hath mine hand made. — *Isa. lxvi. 1, 2.*

October 21.

SUNDAYS.

BRIGHT shadows of true rest, some shoots of blisse;
Heaven once a week;
The next world's gladness prepossessed in this;
A day to seek;
Eternity in time; the steps by which
We climb above all ages; lamps that light
Man through his heap of dark days, and the rich
And full redemption of the whole week's flight!

The pulleys unto headlong man, time's bower,
The cool o' the day!
The creatures' jubilee; God's parle with dust;
Heaven here; man on those hills of myrrh and flowers;
Angels descending; the returns of trust;
A gleam of glory after six days' showers.

HENRY VAUGHAN.

REMEMBER always to be gentle and attentive to older people. Listen, and do not interrupt when they are talking. If you have an old father or grandfather, or a sick uncle or aunt, remember not to disturb them by loud talking or rough speaking. Be careful and tender to them. You cannot think what good it does them. And if it should happen that any among you should have poor fathers or poor mothers who have to get up early in order to go about their business and to earn their bread and your bread, remember what a pleasure it will be to them to find that their little boy or their little girl has been out of bed before them on a cold winter morning, and lighted a bright blazing fire so as

to give them a warm cup of tea. Think what pleasure it will be to them if they are sick, or if they are deaf, or if they are blind, to find a little boy or a little girl to speak to them, to read to them, and to lead them about. But there is not only the comfort which is experienced in being thus helped; there is the still greater comfort of knowing that they have a good little son or daughter who is anxious to assist them, and who, they feel sure, will be a joy, and not a trouble to them, by day and by night.

No Christmas present can be so welcome to any father or mother as the belief that their children are growing up truthful, manly, courageous, courteous, unselfish, religious.

And do not think that any of these things are too much for any of you. I know that many of you have great temptations. Perhaps you may have homes where it is very difficult to be tidy and clean. Perhaps, as you go to school along the streets there may be wicked people who endeavor to lead you astray, and who try to make you steal and use bad words. Yet I am sure that if you do your best, you will find such delight in so doing your duty that you will go on in what is good. Let the good frighten the bad; let the light drive away the darkness; let the whole world know that there are little English boys and girls who are determined to do their duty whatever befalls them.

SERMON BY DEAN STANLEY.

MAY we in safety sleep to-night,
From every danger free,
Because the darkness and the light
Are both alike to Thee.

October 22.

THE Lord is thy keeper; the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand. — *Ps.* cxxi. 5.

GOD SEES ME ALWAYS.

GOD can see me night and day,
In the light and in the dark;
All I do, or think, or say,
He is always near to mark.

Every sinful thought he knows,
Every word that is not true;
And with his love he looks on those
Who desire his will to do.

Let me then with holy fear,
Fly from every evil way;
Since the Lord is always near,
And can see me night and day.

YEA, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day. — *Ps.* cxxxix. 12.



October 23.

WHO is that faithful and wise steward, whom his Lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season?

Blessed is that servant, whom his Lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall much be required. — *Luke* xii. 42, 43, 48.

THEY knew that reward comes by faithful service ; that the most noble motto was that of the Prince of Wales, " I serve ; " and that he is greatest who serves best.

EMERSON.

HEAVEN doth with us as we with torches do,
Not light them for themselves ; for if our virtues
Did not go forth of us, 't were all alike
As if we had them not. Spirits are not finely touched
But to fine issues, nor Nature never lends
The smallest scruple of her excellence
But, like a thrifty goddess, she determines
Herself the glory of a creditor,
Both thanks and use.

SHAKESPEARE.

October 24.

JESUS, Lord, we look to thee,
Meek and humble may we be,
Pride and anger put away,
Make us holy day by day.

Teach us for our friends to pray,
And our parents to obey ;
Richest blessings from above,
Give them for their tender love.

May we find the sweets of prayer,
Sweeter than our pastimes are ;
Love the Sabbath, and the place,
Where we learn to seek thy face.

ANON.

MORE things are wrought by prayer
Than this world dreams of. Wherefore, let thy voice
Rise like a fountain for me night and day.
For what are men better than sheep or goats
That nourish a blind life within the brain,

If, knowing God, they lift not hands of prayer
 Both for themselves and those that call them friend ?
 For so the whole round earth is every way
 Bound by gold chains about the feet of God.

TENNYSON.

THE effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. — *James* v. 16.

October 25.

OH, speed thee, Christian, on thy way,
 And to thy armor cling ;
 With girded loins the call obey,
 That grace and mercy bring !

There is a battle to be fought,
 An upward race to run ;
 A crown of glory to be sought,
 A victory to be won.

Oh, faint not, Christian ! for thy sighs
 Are heard before his throne :
 The race must come before the prize,
 The cross before the crown.

IN all human action those faculties will be strong that are used.

EMERSON.

THE Father's hands are helping
 In the work you have to do !
 Have you never felt them lifting
 When the task was hard for you ?

MRS. LELAND.

BE not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good. — *Rom.* xii. 21.

October 26.

IT is the hour of prayer :
Draw near and bend the knee,
And fill the calm and holy air
With voice of melody !

Kind smiles from loving eyes
Have been around our way,
And lips on which a blessing lies
Have bidden us to pray.

Oh, blessed is the hour
That lifts our hearts on high !
Like sunlight when the tempests lower,
Prayer to the soul is nigh.

ANON.

Ask God for what you really want. Do not say a word until you can really put your heart into it.

JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE.

AND all things whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive. — *Matt.* xxi. 22.



October 27.

HE that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls. — *Prov.* xxi. 28.

WHENEVER you are angry, be assured that it is not only a present evil, but that you have increased a habit, and added fuel to a fire. If you would not be of an

angry temper, do not feed the habit. Give it nothing to help its increase. Be quiet at first, and reckon the days in which you have not been angry. I used to be angry every day; now every other day; then every third and fourth day: and if you miss it so long as thirty days, offer thanks to God. For habit is first weakened, and then entirely destroyed.

EPICETUS.

ANY boy or girl who, instead of being quarrelsome, lives at peace with others, has the kingdom of God within him.

“The kingdom of God is righteousness, peace, joy.”

Righteousness, of course, is just doing what is right.

Do the kind thing: seek the kingdom of righteousness and honor and truth.

DRUMMOND.

ECHO not an angry word;

Let it pass!

Think how often you have erred;

Let it pass!

Any common souls that live

May condemn without reprieve;

'Tis the *noble* who forgive:

Let it pass!

ALL THE YEAR ROUND.



October 28.

I WILL hold thy hand and keep thee. — *Isa.* xlii. 6.

As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you. — *Isa.* lxvi. 13.

SERVE the Lord with gladness. — *Psa.* c. 2.

IF there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not. — 2 *Cor.* viii. 2.

A BELIEVING love will relieve us of a vast load of care. O my brothers, God exists. We need only obey. There is guidance for each of us, and by lowly listening we shall hear the right word.

For you there is a reality, a fit place and congenial duties. Place yourself in the middle of the stream of power and wisdom which animates all whom it floats, and you are without effort impelled to truth, to right, and a perfect contentment.

EMERSON.

HE that hath light within his own clear breast
May sit in the centre and enjoy bright day.

MILTON.

THEY who do their souls no wrong
But keep at eve the faith of morn,
Shall daily hear the angel song
"To-day the Prince of Peace is born."

LOWELL.

October 29.

GOD is a kind Father. He sets us all in the places where he wishes us to be employed; and that employment is truly "our Father's business." He chooses work for every creature which will be delightful to them, if they do it simply and humbly. He gives us always sense enough and strength enough for what he wants us to do; if we either tire ourselves or puzzle our-

selves, it is our own fault. And we may always be sure, whatever we are doing, that we cannot be pleasing him, if we are not happy ourselves.

RUSKIN.

SERENE will be our days and bright,
And happy will our nature be
When love is an unerring light,
And joy its own security.
And they a blissful course may hold
Even now, who, not unwisely bold,
Live in the spirit of this creed,
Yet find that other strength according to their need.

WORDSWORTH.

THEREFORE, my beloved, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.—1 *Cor.* xv. 58.

October 30.

WE have known and believed the love that God hath to us.—1 *John* iv. 16.

SOFT as an infant's sleep shall be the coming of death to you and me. Softly we were cradled into existence here, gently we shall be lifted into existence there. There, as here, we shall be in a surrounding world of beauty and wonder; there, as here, by slow degrees we shall understand our new home and our new work.

JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE.

WHAT is excellent,
As God lives is permanent.
Hearts are dust, hearts' loves remain;
Heart's love will meet thee again.

EMERSON.

October 31.

ALL true whole men succeed ; for what is worth
Success's name, unless it be the thought,
The inward surety, to have carried out
A noble purpose to a noble end,
Altho' it be the gallows or the block ?
'T is only Falsehood that doth ever need
These outward shows of gain to bolster her.

LOWELL.

I DO not see any road of perfect peace which a man can walk, but after the counsel of his own bosom. The unremitting retention of simple and high sentiments in obscure duties is hardening the character to that temper which will work with honor, if need be, in the tumult, or on the scaffold.

EMERSON.

THE Lord is the strength of my life ; of whom shall I be afraid ? — *Ps.* xxvii. 1.

THOU wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee. — *Isa.* xxvi. 3.

WHEN we cannot see our way,
Let us trust and still obey ;
He who bids us forward go
Cannot fail the way to show.
Though the sea be deep and wide,
Though a passage seem denied,
Fearless let us still proceed,
Since the Lord vouchsafes to lead.

ANON.

November 1.

THE gentleman is a man of truth, lord of his own action and expressing that lordship in his behavior, not in any manner dependent and servile, either on persons or opinions or possessions. Beyond this fact of truth and real force, the word denotes good nature or benevolence ; manhood first, and then gentleness.

EMERSON.

WHEN the ear heard him then it blessed him ; and when the eye saw him it gave witness to him ; because he delivered the poor that cried, and the fatherless, and him that had none to help him.

The blessing of him that was ready to perish came upon him ; and he caused the widow's heart to sing for joy. — *Job* xxix. 11, 12, 13.

HE shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season ; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. — *Ps.* i. 3.

November 2.

THE Lord seeth not as man seeth ; for man looketh on the outward appearance ; but the Lord looketh on the heart. — 1 *Sam.* xvi. 7.

SUPPOSE any man shall despise me. Let him look to that himself. But I will look to this, that I be not discovered doing or saying anything deserving of contempt.

M. A. ANTONINUS.

IF any one tells you that such a person speaks ill of you, do not make excuses about what is said of you, but answer, "He was ignorant of my other faults, else he would not have mentioned these alone."

EPICTETUS.

THINK that God thy ways beholdeth;
He unfoldeth
Every fault that lurks within;
He the hidden shame glossed over
Can discover,
And discern each deed of sin.

November 3.

SEARCH me, O God, and know my heart; try me, .
and know my thoughts;

And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. — *Ps.* cxxxix. 23, 24.

SELF-RELIANCE, the height and perfection of man, is reliance on God.

EMERSON.

MAN is his own star; and the soul that can
Render an honest and a perfect man,
Commands all light, all influence, all fate;
Nothing to him falls early or too late.
Our acts our angels are, or good or ill,
Our fatal shadows that walk by us still.

THIS above all; to thine own self be true,
And it must follow, as the night the day,
Thou canst not then be false to any man.

SHAKESPEARE.

November 4.

THE Lord is in his holy temple ; let all the earth keep silence before him.

The Lord is nigh unto all that call upon him in truth.

Seek ye the Lord while he may be found ; call ye upon him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts ; and let them return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him ; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness ; for they shall be filled.

SERVICES FOR CONGREGATIONAL WORSHIP.

IN the duties now before us,
Let us faithfully engage ;
Spirit of all truth, be o'er us,
As we search the sacred page.
May the lesson Christ has taught us
All our minds and hearts improve ;
And the blessings he has brought us
Wake a strong and holy love.

Thankful for the kind protection
Which has blessed us through the week,
Still imploring thy direction,
While we heavenly wisdom seek, —
Father, thus in pure devotion,
Every thought inspired by love,
Gratitude in each emotion,
Would we lift our souls above.

SUNDAY should not be for mere church-going nor for mere amusement. It should rest both body and soul, mind and heart, preparing us to go to our work next day in a better spirit, with new hope, courage, faith in God, love to man.

JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE.

November 5.

L ORD, I confess before thy face
How naughty I have been;
Look down from heaven, thy dwelling-place,
And pardon this my sin.

I cannot lay me down to sleep
In quiet on my bed
Until, with shame, I have confessed
The naughty things I said.

The Saviour answered not again,
Nor spoke an angry word,
To all the scoffs of wicked men,
Although he was their Lord.

And who am I, a sinful child,
Such angry words to say?
Make me as mild as he was mild,
And take my pride away.

For Jesus' sake forgive my fault,
And change this stubborn heart;
And grant me grace, another time,
To act a better part.

JANE TAYLOR.

MAN-LIKE is it to fall into sin,
Fiend-like is it dwell therein,
Christ-like is it for sin to grieve,
God-like is it all sin to leave.

F. VON LOGAN.

IF we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. — 1 *John* i. 9.

November 6.

THROUGH thy precepts I get understanding ; therefore I hate every false way. — *Ps.* cxix. 104.

SUCH as are thy habitual thoughts, such also will be the character of thy mind ; for the soul is dyed by the thoughts. Dye it then with a continuous series of such thoughts as these : for instance, that where a man can live, there he can also live well. But he must live in a palace ; well, then he can also live well in a palace.

MARCUS AURELIUS.

NATURE puts a premium on reality. What is done for effect is seen to be done for effect ; what is done for love is felt to be done for love ; and you cannot rightly train one to an air and manner, except by making him the kind of man of whom that manner is the natural expression.

EMERSON.

THOU must be true thyself
If thou the truth wouldst teach ;
Thy soul must overflow, if thou
Another's soul would reach ;
It needs the overflow of heart
To give the lips full speech.
Think truly, and thy thoughts
Shall the world's famine feed ;
Speak truly, and each word of thine
Shall be a fruitful seed ;
Live truly, and thy life shall be,
A great and noble creed.

November 7.

THY WILL BE DONE.

MY Father, as thou wilt:
Oh, may thy will be mine!
Into thy hand of love
I would my all resign.
Through sorrow or through joy,
Conduct me as thine own,
And help me still to say,
My Lord, thy will be done.

My Father, as thou wilt:
All shall be well for me,
Each changing future scene,
I gladly trust with thee.
Straight to my home above,
I travel calmly on,
And sing in life or death,
My Lord, thy will be done.

BENJAMIN SCHMOLKE, 1716.

THOU shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor
for the arrow that flieth by day.

Because thou hast made the Lord thy refuge, and the
most High thy habitation.

There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any
plague come nigh thy dwelling.

For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep
thee in all thy ways. — Ps. xci. 5, 9-11.

November 8.

HOW oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him ; until seven times ? And Jesus answered and said, I say not unto thee, Until seven times : but, Until seventy times seven. — *Matt.* xviii. 21, 22.

THE hate thou keepest for a day, a thousand years will not root out. Is one good to me, let me be good to him ; is he evil, let me still be good ; how then can he hate me ? A beautiful word is like a poem that sheds glory ; a genial word is like bells, harps, and lutes.

CHINESE PROVERB.

THE sandal-tree, most sacred tree of all,
Perfumes the very axe which bids it fall.

ALGER'S "ORIENTAL POETRY."

HE who has a thousand friends has not a friend to spare,
And he who has *one* enemy shall meet him everywhere.



November 9.

THE beloved of the Lord shall dwell in safety by him ;
and the Lord shall cover him all the day long. —
Deut. xxxiii. 12.

WHO has not seen, and who can see unmoved, under a low roof, the eager, blushing boys discharging as they can their household chores, and hastening to the study of to-morrow's merciless lesson, yet stealing time to read

one chapter more of the novel hardly smuggled into the tolerance of father and mother, — atoning for the same by some pages of Plutarch or Goldsmith ; the warm sympathy with which they kindle each other in school-yard, or in barn or woodshed, with scraps of poetry or song, with phrases of the last oration, or mimicry of the orator ; the affectionate delight with which they greet the return of each one after the early separations which school or business require ; the foresight with which during such absences they hive the honey which opportunity offers, for the ear and imagination of the others ; and the unrestrained glee with which they disburden themselves of their early mental treasures when the holidays bring them again together ? What is the hoop that holds them stanch ? It is the iron band of poverty, of necessity, of austerity, which, excluding them from the sensual enjoyments which make other boys too early old, has directed their activity in safe and right channels, and made them, despite themselves, reverers of the grand, the beautiful, and the good. Ah ! too happy, could they know their advantages. They pine for freedom from that mild parental yoke ; they sigh for fine clothes, for rides, for the theatre, and premature freedom and dissipation, which others possess. Woe to them if their wishes were crowned ! The angels that dwell with them, and are weaving laurels of life for their youthful brows, are Toil, and Want, and Truth, and Mutual Faith.

EMERSON.

How much, preventing God ! how much I owe
To the defences thou hast round me set.
Example, custom, fear, occasion slow, —
These scornèd bondsmen were my parapet.

EMERSON.

November 10.

WE get back our mete as we measure,
We cannot do wrong and feel right;
Nor can we give pain and gain pleasure,
For Justice avenges each slight.

CRIME and punishment grow out of one stem. Punishment is a fruit that unsuspected ripens within the flower of the pleasure which concealed it.

EMERSON.

WHATEVER may be our fault, our besetting sin, God has given us some power by which to overcome it.

JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE.

HE that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done; and there is no respect of persons. — *Col. iii. 25.*

November 11.

WHEN to the house of God we go,
To hear his word, and sing his love,
We ought to worship him below,
As saints and angels do above.

They stand before his presence now,
And praise him better far than we,
Who only at his footstool bow,
And love him though we cannot see.

But God is present everywhere,
And watches all our thoughts and ways;
He marks who humbly join in prayer,
And who sincerely sing his praise.

The triflers, too, his eye can see,
Who only seem to take a part.
They move the lip, and bend the knee,
But do not seek him with their heart.

Oh, may we never trifle so,
Nor lose the days our God has given,
But learn, by Sabbaths here below,
To spend eternity in heaven.

JANE TAYLOR.

OH, sing unto the Lord a new song ; sing unto the Lord, all the earth.

For the Lord is great, and greatly to be praised ; he is to be feared above all gods.

Honor and majesty are before him ; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

Oh, worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness ; fear before him, all the earth.

He shall judge the people righteously.

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad.

Let the sea roar and the fulness thereof.

Let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

Then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice before the Lord.

For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth.

He shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth. — *Ps.* xcvi.



November 12.

HOW precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God !
how great is the sum of them !

If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand ; when I awake I am still with thee. — *Ps.* cxxxix. 17, 18.

MORNING HYMN.

O GOD, I thank thee that the night
 In peace and rest hath passed away;
 And that I see, in this fair light,
 My Father's smile, that makes it day.

Be thou my Guide, and let my live
 As under thine all-seeing eye;
 Supply my wants, my sins forgive,
 And make me happy when I die.

JOHN PIERPONT.

GOD loves all souls with a universal, unwearied,
 untired affection.

WHEN all thy mercies, O my God,
 My rising soul surveys,
 Transported with the view, I'm lost
 In wonder, love, and praise.

ADDISON.

—◆—

November 13.

I LAY me down and sleep; I awake; for the Lord
 sustaineth me. — *Ps. iii. 5.*

Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your
 trust in the Lord. — *Ps. iv. 5.*

EVENING PRAYER.

WITHIN thy circling power we stand;
 On every side we see thy hand;
 Awake, asleep, at home, abroad,
 We are surrounded still with God.

Oh, may these thoughts possess our breast,
 Where'er we rove, where'er we rest;
 Nor let our lower passions dare
 Consent to sin, for God is there!

MRS. MOTHERLY.

THEE in the watches of the night,
When I remember on my bed,
Thy presence makes the darkness light,
Thy guardian wings are round me spread.

EVERY trusting prayer brings us nearer to God. We have the evidence and witness of his being within our soul. As the shadows of night vanish with the coming dawn, so our doubt and unbelief disappear as we live from God, for man.

JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE.

November 14.

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ALL things work together for good to them that love God. — *Rom. viii. 28.*

GOD ORDERS ALL THINGS.

I THANK the Lord for all his grace,
To me so freely shown;
At all times and in every place,
His goodness let me own.

It was not chance that placed me here,
Where I am trained and taught
My Maker's name to know and fear,
And love him as I ought.

The Lord in wisdom ordered where
And when my birth should be;
And ever since with tender care
He has watched over me.

WE are to know that we are never without a pilot.

When we know not how to steer, and dare not hoist a sail, we can drift. The current knows the way, though we do not.

The ship of heaven guides itself, and will not accept a wooden rudder.

EMERSON.

November 15.

MY KINGDOM.

A LITTLE kingdom I possess,
Where thoughts and feelings dwell;
And very hard I find the task
Of governing it well.

For passion tempts and troubles me,
A wayward will misleads,
And selfishness its shadow casts
On all my will and deeds.

How can I learn to rule myself,
To be the child I should,
Honest and brave, nor ever tire
Of trying to be good?

Dear Father, help me with the love
That casteth out my fear!
Teach me to lean on thee, and feel
That thou art very near.

That no temptation is unseen,
No childish grief too small,
Since thou, with patience infinite,
Dost soothe and comfort all.

I do not ask for any crown
But that which all may win;
Nor try to conquer any world
Except the one within.

Be thou my guide until I find,
Led by a tender hand,
Thy happy kingdom in *myself*,
And dare to take command.

LOUISA M. ALCOTT.

HE guides us where we dread to go ; but we find, as we move on, new energies of character, new strength to do, to bear, and to overcome called forth. If we are only faithful, every change and trial and cross will make us better, will render us more and more what in our best moments we wish and pray that we may become.

A. P. PEABODY.

WHEN thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee ; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee. — *Isa.* xliii. 2.



November 16.

THOU openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing.

THE Lord is righteous in all his ways, and bountiful in all his works. — *Ps.* cxlv. 16, 17.

THE ORANGE.

IN warmer climes than ours, we know,
God makes the oranges to grow,
And since not all are wanted there,
He kindly lets us have a share.

And many other good things, too,
Come from far countries, where they grew,
Come to our tables, day by day,
Our Maker's goodness to display.

Go, then, sweet, juicy orange, go
To yonder bed of pain and woe ;
That poor sick child in lowly cot,
The God of love has not forgot.

It was for this he brought you o'er
The sea, a thousand miles or more ;
That you, with juice so cool and sweet,
Might moisten lips that cannot eat.

How good is God ! how kind ! how wise !
Who all our wants each day supplies,
Sends good things to the rich man's door,
And to the dwellings of the poor. JANE TAYLOR.

DELIGHT in acts of kindness is our nearest approach to
the divine. SENECA.



November 17.

THEY that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength ;
they shall mount up with wings as eagles ; they shall
run, and not be weary ; and they shall walk, and not
faint. — *Isa.* xl. 31.

It is no man's business whether he has genius or not ;
work he must, whatever he is, but quietly and steadily ;
and the natural and unforced results of such work will
always be the things that God meant him to do, and will
be his best. If he be a great man, they will be great
things ; if a small man, small things ; but always, if thus
peacefully done, good and right.

RUSKIN.

LORD, with what courage and delight
I do each thing
When thy least breath sustains my wing !
I shine and move
Like those above,
And with much gladness
Quitting sadness,
Make me fair days of every night.

VAUGHAN.

He always wins who sides with God,
To him no chance is lost ;
God's will is sweetest to him when
It triumphs at his cost.

Ill that He blesses is our good,
And unblest good is ill :
And all is right that seems most wrong,
If it be His dear will.

FABER.

November 18.

SUNDAY A DELIGHT.

HAPPY the child whose tender years,
Are trained to heavenly truth ;
And who to waste the Sabbath fears
E'en from his earliest youth.

Happy the child who gently led
By motives kind and strong,
The Sabbath-breaker's sin would dread,
And knows and feels it wrong.

To him, the Sabbath seems to rise
Unlike to other days ;
How calm and still its morning skies ;
How mild its evening rays.

ANN TAYLOR.

TALITHA CUMI.

LET me take this evening the story of our Saviour's kindness to a little girl. There was in Capernaum a well-known house where lived one of the chief officers of the synagogue. His name was Jairus. In that house was one only child, a little daughter twelve years old,

—just at the age when a child has had time to endear itself to its parents, when its character first comes to be seen and known. The child was thought to be dying. The father heard that the Great Healer had just crossed the lake. He was feasting in the house of Levi, the Publican. The father rushes in, he falls at his feet, he entreats him to come and save his daughter. The Lord arose; that little life was as precious in his sight as the souls of those whom he was convincing by his divine wisdom. He who said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me," was as eager, if one may so say, to soothe the sick bed of this small Galilean maiden, as though he had nothing else to do. For him the thought of human sickness, the call of a suffering parent, was the most sacred of human duties. He came at once. All along the shore, and all through the streets he had to force his way through the dense crowd, thronging ever more and more closely round him. While he thus struggled with the crowd a messenger broke through the press with the sad tidings that it was too late: "Thy daughter is dead." Amid the surging of the crowd, and above the hum of many voices, the Master's wakeful ear heard the whisper of the messenger. He bade the father still keep up his heart. "Fear not," he said: "only believe."

"Fear not," he says to all anxious mourners. "Fear not the dark and dreary void into which thy loved one has passed. Fear not that God will desert thee in thine hour of need. Fear not but that thou wilt once more see the child, the parent, the brother, the sister thou hast lost. Only believe in the loving-kindness of God our Saviour. Only believe that he who makes the flowers to spring and the buds to come forth again, will raise that little flower, will help that bursting blossom of the human soul."

He reaches the house. The hired mourners of East-

ern countries are already there. They are wailing and shrieking, as is their wont. He said to the parents, "She is not dead, but sleepeth," — words that have often brought comfort to parents who have hung over the face of their dead child, in the hope of the general resurrection. He touched the hand of the child as she lay on her couch, as if in the sleep of death. He addressed her in words which have been handed down literally. It is doubtful, in his discourses generally, what language our Saviour spoke, whether Greek or Syriac ; but here, at any rate, the Syriac words are given. They are, "Talitha cumi ;" that is, "My little lamb, my pet lamb, rise up." By these endearing appellations he roused the sleeping soul. By this he showed to the parents that he was one with them in their parental love, in their domestic joy, as well as in their domestic sorrow. And she came again to life, and was to them as before.

And you, children, these words are also addressed to you. "My little lamb," — the very words tell you how precious you are to the Good Shepherd.

Arise, get up, bestir yourself ; get up from any slothful habit, from any idle, selfish habit you have formed. Let his voice reach your innermost heart, and raise you from the deepest sleep.

A. P. STANLEY.

November 19.

CHILDREN, obey your parents in all things ; for this is well-pleasing unto the Lord. — *Col.* iii. 20.

OH, that it were my chief delight,
To do the things I ought !
Then let me try with all my might,
To mind what I am taught.

For God looks down from heaven on high,
Our actions to behold;
And he is pleased when children try
To do as they are told.

JANE TAYLOR.

IF you always remember that God stands by as a witness of whatever you do, either in soul or body, you will never err, either in your prayers or actions, and you will have God abiding with you.

EPICTETUS.

November 20.

MORTALS that would follow me,
Love virtue, she alone is free;
She can teach ye how to climb
Higher than the sphery chime, —
Or, if Virtue feeble were
Heaven itself would stoop to her.

MILTON.

SHOW me that he who has the worse principles can get the advantage over him who has the better. You never will show it, nor anything like it; for the law of Nature and of God is this, — let the better always prevail over the worse.

EPICTETUS.

I HAVE seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green bay tree.

Yet he passed away, and lo, he was not: yea, I sought him but he could not be found.

The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord; and he delighteth in his way.

Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; for the Lord upholdeth him with his hand. — Ps. xxxvii. 23, 24, 35, 36.

November 21.

AND be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted, forbearing one another in love. — *Eph.* iv. 2, 32.

IT is a mistake to suppose that relations must of course love each other because they are relations. Love must be cultivated, and can be increased by judicious culture, as wild fruits may double their bearing under the hand of a gardener; and love can dwindle and die out by neglect, as choice flower-seeds planted in poor soil dwindle and grow single.

HARRIET BEECHER STOWE.

THE happiest households are those in which the small, sweet courtesies that make life pleasant are most faithfully observed. Avoid the first temptation to remit these, because "we understand one another." Wives and sisters may not complain aloud when they are left to help themselves to daily bread from crockery platters, while other fellows' sisters and wives are served on bended knee from garnished porcelain. But they see and feel and think!

MARION HARLAND.

A WRONG-DOER is often a man who has left something undone, not always he that has done something.

MARCUS AURELIUS.



November 22.

WILT thou not from this time forth cry unto me, My Father, thou art the guide of my youth? — *Jer.* iii. 4.

WHEN thou dost purpose aught within thy power
Be sure to do it, though it is but small :
Constancy knits the bones, and makes us stour
When wanton pleasures beckon us to thrall.

HERBERT.

I WILL lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence
cometh my help.

My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven
and earth.

He will not suffer thy foot to be moved : he that
keepeth thee will not slumber.

Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber
nor sleep.

The Lord is thy keeper ; the Lord is thy shade upon
thy right hand.

The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by
night.

The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil ; he shall
preserve thy soul.

The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming
in from this time forth, and even forevermore. — *Ps.*
cxxi.

BUT if thou do thy best,
Without remission, without rest,
And invite the sunbeam,
And abhor to feign or seem
Even to those who thee should love
And thy behavior approve ;
If thou go in thy own likeness,
Be it health or be it sickness ;
If thou go as thy father's son,
If thou wear no mask or lie,
Dealing purely and nakedly —

EMERSON.

THE mind turns every obstacle into an aid.

MARCUS AURELIUS.

November 23.

LOVE thyself last; cherish those hearts that hate thee;
Corruption wins not more than honesty.
Still in thy right hand carry gentle peace,
To silence envious tongues. Be just and fear not:
Let all the ends thou aim'st at be thy country's,
Thy God's, and truth's.

SHAKESPEARE.

WHAT stronger breastplate than a heart untainted?
Thrice is he armed that hath his quarrel just;
And he but naked, though locked up in steel,
Whose conscience with injustice is corrupted.

SHAKESPEARE.

NEVER value anything as profitable to thyself which shall compel thee to break thy promise, to lose thy self-respect, to hate any man, to suspect, to curse, to act the hypocrite, to desire anything which needs walls and curtains.

MARCUS AURELIUS.

If it is not right, do not do it; if it is not true do not say it.

MARCUS AURELIUS.

FOR what shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? — *Mark* viii. 36.

November 24.

GOD created man in his own image, in the image of
God created he him. — *Gen. i. 27.*

WHAT is this that stirs within,
Loving goodness, hating sin;
Always craving to be blest,
Finding here below no rest?

Naught that charms the ear or eye
Can its hunger satisfy;
Active, restless, it would pierce
Through the outward universe.

What is it? and whither, whence,
This unsleeping, secret sense,
Longing for its rest and food
In some hidden, untried good?

'T is the soul, — mysterious name;
Him it seeks from whom it came:
It would, mighty God, like thee,
Holy, Holy, Holy be.

FURNESS.

LIKENESS to God is a good so unutterably surpassing
all other good, that we must acknowledge it to be the
chief aim of life.

CHANNING.

November 25.

O GOD, thou art my God ; early will I seek thee : my soul thirsteth for thee, my heart longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is ;

Because thy loving-kindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee.

Thus will I bless thee while I live : I will lift up my hands in thy name.

My soul shall be satisfied ; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips :

When I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night-watches.

Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice.

My soul followeth after thee : thy right hand upholdeth me. — *Ps.* lxiii.

THE dove, let loose in eastern skies,
Returning fondly home,
Ne'er stoops to earth her wing, nor flies
Where idle warblers roam ;

But high she shoots through air and light,
Above all low delay ;
Where nothing earthly bounds her flight,
Nor shadow dims her way.

So grant me, Lord, from every snare
Of sinful passion free,
Aloft, through faith's serenest air,
To urge my course to thee ;

No sin to cloud, no lure to stay
My soul, as home she springs, —
Thy sunshine on her joyful way,
Thy freedom on her wings.

THOMAS MOORE.

November 26.

FOR every evil under the sun
There is a remedy or there is none,
If there is one try and find it
If there is none never mind it.

I HAVE not gone through life fighting with my lot.
When evil has come, I have accepted it at once.

CHANNING.

LET us gather up the sunbeams
Lying all around our path ;
Let us keep the wheat and roses,
Casting out the thorns and chaff.

GOODNESS smiles to the last ; and, for the reason that
whoever sees the law which distributes things does not
despond, but is animated to great desires and endeavors.
He who desponds betrays that he has not seen it.

EMERSON.

LET all those that put their trust in thee rejoice ; let
them also that love thy name be joyful in thee. — *Ps.* v.
11.



November 27.

AND we have known and believed the love that God
hath to us. God is love ; and he that dwelleth in
love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

We love him, because he first loved us. — *1 John* iv.
16, 19.

GRATEFULNESS.

THOU that hast given so much to me,
Give one thing more, — a grateful heart.

Not thankful when it pleaseth me,
As if thy blessing had spare days ;
But such a heart whose pulse may be
Thy praise.

HERBERT.

As a plant upon the earth, so a man rests upon the bosom of God : he is nourished by unfailing fountains, and draws, at his need, inexhaustible power.

EMERSON.



November 28.

FOR as many as are led by the spirit of God, they are the sons of God. — *Rom. viii. 14.*

IF you have conquered your inclination rather than your inclination you, there is something for you to rejoice at.

PLAUTUS.

REMEMBER that you must behave as at a banquet. Is anything brought round to you? Put out your hand, and take a moderate share. Does it pass by you? Do not stop it. Is it not yet come? Do not yearn in desire toward it, but wait till it reaches you. And if you do not so much as take the things which are set before you, but are able even to forego them, then you will not only be worthy to feast with the gods, but to rule with them also.

EPICTETUS.

LIFE is a business, not good cheer, —
Ever in wars.
The sun still shineth there or here,
Whereas the stars
Watch an advantage to appear.

HERBERT.

November 29.

THOU crownest the year with thy goodness. — *Ps.*
lxv. 11.

PRAISE to God, immortal praise,
For the love that crowns our days;
Bounteous source of every joy,
Let thy praise our tongues employ;
All to thee, our God, we owe,
Source whence all our blessings flow.

All the blessings of the fields,
All the stores the garden yields,
Flocks that whiten all the plain,
Yellow sheaves of ripened grain:
Lord, for these our souls shall raise
Grateful vows and solemn praise.

Clouds that drop their fattening dews,
Suns that genial warmth diffuse,
All the plenty summer pours,
Autumn's rich, o'erflowing stores:
Lord, for these our souls shall raise
Grateful vows and solemn praise.

Peace, prosperity, and health,
Private bliss and public wealth,
Knowledge, with its gladdening streams,
Pure religion's holier beams:
Lord, for these our souls shall raise
Grateful vows and solemn praise.

MRS. BARBAULD.

AND they made it a day of gladness and feasting, and a good day, and of sending portions one to another, and gifts to the poor. — *Esther* ix. 19, 22.

November 30.

LET us not be weary in well-doing ; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. — *Gal.* vi. 9.

HEAVEN is not reached at a single bound ;
We build the ladder by which we rise
From the lowly earth to the vaulted skies,
And we mount to its summit round by round.

J. G. HOLLAND.

ALMIGHTY Father ! I am weak,
But thou wilt strengthen me,
If from my heart I humbly seek
For health and light from thee.

When I am tempted to do wrong,
Then, Father, pity me,
And make my failing virtues strong ;
Help me to think of thee.

Let Christian courage guard my youth ;
That courage give to me,
Which ever speaks and acts the truth
And puts its trust in thee.

December 1.

TAKE no thought for the morrow; for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof. — *Matt.* vi. 34.

BUILD a little fence of trust
Around to-day;
Fill the space with loving work,
And therein stay.

Look not through the sheltering bars
Upon to-morrow;
God will help thee bear what comes
Of joy or sorrow.

No man ever sunk under the burden of the day. It is when to-morrow's burden is added to the burden of to-day that the weight is more than a man can bear.

MACDONALD.



December 2.

MOREOVER also I gave them my sabbaths to be a sign between me and them. — *Ezek.* xx. 12.

SUNDAY EVENING.

WITHIN thy courts have millions met,
Millions this day before thee bowed;
Their faces heavenward were set,
Their vows to thee, O God, they vowed.

Still as the light of morning broke
O'er island, continent, and deep,
Thy far-spread family awoke,
Sabbath all round the earth to keep.
From east to west the sun surveyed,
From north to south, adoring throngs;
And still, where evening stretched her shade,
The stars came forth to hear their songs.
And not a prayer, a tear, a sigh,
Hath failed this day some suit to gain;
To hearts that sought thee, thou wast nigh,
Nor hath one sought thy face in vain.
The poor in spirit thou hast fed,
The feeble soul hath strengthened been,
The mourner thou hast comforted,
The pure in heart their God have seen.

JAMES MONTGOMERY.

I BELIEVE that people will always go to church because they will always feel the need of it, and the good of it. It will last, not because it is a custom or a duty, but because it satisfies an everlasting need of the soul.

JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE.

December 3.

BUT I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you. — *Luke* v. 44.

IF we could read the secret history of our enemies, we should find in each man's life sorrow and suffering enough to disarm our hostility.

LONGFELLOW.

OH, be the law of love fulfilled
In every act and thought,
Each angry passion far removed,
Each selfish view forgot.

DODDRIDGE.

December 4.

LIKE as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord
pitieth them that fear him. — *Ps. ciii. 13.*

EITHER grief will not come; or if it must,
Do not forecast;
For while it cometh, it is almost past.
Away distrust!
My God hath promised; He is just.

HERBERT.

HEAVINESS may endure for a night, but joy cometh in
the morning. — *Ps. xxx. 5.*

SHALL not the heart which has received so much trust
the Power by which it lives? May it not quit other
leadings, and listen to the Soul that has guided it so
gently, and taught it so much, secure that the future
will be worthy of the past?

EMERSON.

December 5.

THOU cam'st not to thy place by accident,
It is the very place God meant for thee.

R. C. TRENCH.

LET us also firmly believe that each of us has his gift.
Let us not imagine that we are disinherited by our

heavenly Father, any of us. Let us be ourselves as God has made us, and in the spot where he has placed us, and then we shall be something good and useful.

JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE.

THAT which each can do best, none but his Maker can teach him. Do that which is assigned to you, and you cannot hope or dare too much.

EMERSON.

THE inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding. — *Job xxxii. 8.*



December 6.

IF thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there remember that thy brother hath aught against thee, leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way : first be reconciled to thy brother and then come and offer thy gift. — *Matt. v. 23.*

EVERYTHING has two handles : one by which it may be borne, another by which it cannot. If your brother acts unjustly, do not lay hold on the affair by the handle of his injustice : for by that it cannot be borne ; but rather by the opposite, that he is your brother, that he was brought up with you ; and thus, you will lay hold on it as it is to be borne.

EPICTETUS.

BLEST are the sons of peace
Whose hearts and hopes are one ;
Whose kind designs to serve and please
Through all their actions run.

ISAAC WATTS.

December 7.

THOU shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength. This is the first commandment.

And the second is like, namely, this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these. — *Mark* xii. 30, 31.

THE secret of learning to love God is to love him. Just as we learn to study by studying, to walk by walking, to talk by talking, to work by working, we learn to love God and our neighbor by loving them. There is no other way.

SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES.

My God, what is a heart?
Silver, or gold, or precious stone,
Or star, or rainbow, or a part
Of all these things, or all of them in one.

My God what is a heart
That thou shouldst it so eye, and woo,
Pouring upon it all thy art,
As if that thou hadst nothing else to do?

Teach me thy love to know.

HERBERT.

“WHEN next thou art called upon to help the unfortunate, think that it is thine own needs that would be served; and it may be thou shalt judge better as to what thou canst spare.”

December 8.

IN quietness shall be your strength. And it shall be in confidence. In confidence, not merely that all things are ordered by an all-wise and holy Being, but that his watchful eye has an individual care for every one of his creatures, and appoints for each that mode of discipline which he knows to be most conducive to his well being; in confidence that he heareth prayer, and will grant aid where it is truly sought; in confidence in his love to us, which is unbounded as his own infinite nature. . . . But quietness precedes confidence.

DAY UNTO DAY.

WHAT produces this Divine serenity, subject to no moods, clouded by no depression, — this perpetual Sunday of the heart? It is not merely good-nature or a happy temperament. It is that perfect poise coming from a Christian experience. It is the habit of looking to God in love and to man in love.

JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE.

How gentle God's commands!
How kind his precepts are!
Come, leave your burdens to the Lord,
And trust his constant care.

His bounty will provide;
Ye shall securely dwell;
The hand that bears creation up
Shall guard his children well.

DODDRIDGE.

December 9.

O LORD, my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honor and majesty:

Who coverest thyself with light as with a garment; who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain;

Who layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters; who maketh the clouds his chariot; who walketh upon the wings of the wind. — *Ps. civ. 1, 2, 3.*

My meditation of him shall be sweet; I will be glad in the Lord.

AND that no day of life may lack romance,
The spiritual stars rise nightly, shedding down
A private beam into each several heart.
Daily the bending skies solicit man,
The seasons chariot him from this exile,
The rainbow hours bedeck his glowing chair,
The storm-winds urge the heavy weeks along.
Sun, haste to set, that so remoter lights
Beckon the wanderer to his vaster home.

SUPPOSE there were on exhibition in this city a collection of paintings and statuary by all the greatest artists of ancient and modern times. Suppose, too, that instead of getting wearied there was some subtle process by which you were invigorated as you looked, and went away stronger than you came.

Now this which seems like a flight of fancy is a true but inadequate illustration of the reality we possess. He that hath eyes to see, let him see! Walk out with me this wintry day. A wonderful white mantle covers all the earth. Its surface now, so dazzling and radiant, will by and by, when the sun begins to sink, be tinged with most delicate hues, faint rosy flushes, and bluish shadows

on the dimpled hillsides, trees outlined on the snow in soft silhouette, a celestial light upon the distant heights. And the scene is constantly changing. This morning I looked out before daybreak. The stars shone with lustrous brilliance. The night-wind sang its mystical song; Nature seemed to be holding some solemn, jubilant revel in whose pure joy the heart of man was bidden to partake.

We dig and toil, we worry and fret; and all the while close over us bends the infinite wonder and beauty of Nature, saying: "Look up, my child! Feel my smile, and be glad!"

MERRIAM.

STAND still, and consider the wondrous works of God.

Dost thou know the balancings of the clouds, the wondrous works of him which is perfect in knowledge?

Hast thou with him spread out the sky, which is strong, and as a molten looking-glass?

Whereupon are the foundations of the earth fastened? or who laid the corner-stone thereof; when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

Or who shut up the sea with doors, when it brake forth, and said, Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further; and here shall thy proud waves be stayed?

The Almighty is excellent in power and in judgment, and in plenty of justice; great things doeth he which we cannot comprehend. — *Job xxxvii., xxxviii.*

December 10.

IN God is my salvation and my glory.

Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him. God is a refuge for us. — *Ps. lxii. 7, 8.*

KING of Glory, King of Peace,
I will love thee;
And, that love may never cease,
I will move thee.

Thou hast granted my request ;
Thou hast heard me ;
Thou didst note my working breast ;
Thou hast spared me.

Wherefore with my utmost art
I will sing thee,
And the cream of all my heart
I will bring thee.

Seven whole days, not one in seven,
I will praise thee ;
In my heart, though not in heaven,
I can raise thee.

HERBERT.

MAN has the power of looking into the spiritual world, and of perceiving God and immortality, divine beauty, and infinite wisdom ; but he who never looks up to a living God, to a heavenly presence, loses the power of perceiving that presence.

JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE.



December II.

GOD watches over us as a tender mother watches over her children, — comforting these, providing for those, listening to all, and assisting every one ; and if sometimes he denies the favor we implore, he denies but to invite our more earnest prayers ; or, if seeming to deny a blessing, he grants one in the refusal.

Poor heart, lament,
For since thy God refuseth still,
There is some rub, some discontent,
Which cools his will.

What do I see
Written above there? Yesterday
I did behave me carelessly
When I did pray.

And should God's ear
To such indifferents chained be,
Who do not their own motions hear?
Is God less free?

But stay! what's there?
Late when I would have something done,
I had a motion to forbear,
Yet I went on.

And should God's ear,
Which needs not man, be tied to those
Who hear not him, but quickly hear
His utter foes?

Then once more pray;
Down with thy knees, up with thy voice.
Seek pardon first, and God will say,
Glad heart, rejoice.

HERBERT.

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. — *Matt.* vii. 7.

BUT ask in faith, not wavering. — *James* i. 6.

December 12.

HOW near to good is what is fair!
Which we no sooner see
But with the lines and outward air
Our senses taken be.

BEN JONSON.

TACT is a gift ; it is also a grace. As a gift, it may or may not have fallen to our share ; as a grace, we are bound either to possess or to acquire it.

CHRISTINA ROSSETTI.

TACT means *touch* ; and as we use it, it means *touching* the souls of our fellow-creatures to their pleasure and advantage.

It implies "fine perception ; the acquaintance with *real* beauty ;" the gift of setting self aside and drawing out the powers of others.

It was said of Fénelon, that "he put people at their ease, intralling them so that one could neither leave him, nor mistrust him, nor help seeking him again. . . . He never desired to shine himself, and seemed to yield to others even when convincing them."

AN outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace.



December 13.

WHOEVER thinks a faultless one to see
Thinks what ne'er was, nor is, nor e'er shall be.

JUDGE not, that ye be not judged. — *Matt.* vii. 1.

WHO made the heart, 't is He alone
Decidedly can try us,
He knows each chord — its various tone,
Each spring — its various bias ;
Then at the balance let's be mute,
We never can adjust it ;
What's *done* we partly may compute,
But know not what's *resisted*.

BURNS.

LET us not therefore judge one another any more ; but judge this rather that no man put a stumbling-block or an occasion to fall in his brother's way. — *Rom.* xiv. 13.

December 14.

I HAVE fought a good fight ; I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.

Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day : and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing. — 2 *Tim.* iv. 7, 8.

SOCRATES said to one who put him in mind to prepare himself for his trial : “ Do you not think that I have been preparing myself for this very thing my whole life long ? ” — “ By what kind of preparation ? ” — “ I have attended to my own work. ” — “ What mean you ? ” — “ I have done nothing unjust, either in public or in private life. ”

EPICETUS.

FOR he who blesses most is blest
And God and man shall own his worth
Who toils to leave, as his bequest,
An added beauty to the earth.

WHITTIER.

WE must never omit any effort from a despair of arriving at the highest.

EPICETUS.

December 15.

WHEN Israel, of the Lord beloved,
Out from the land of bondage came,
Her fathers' God before her moved,
An awful guide, in smoke and flame.

By day, along the astonished lands,
The cloudy pillar glided slow;
By night, Arabia's crimsoned sands
Returned the fiery column's glow.

Thus present still, though now unseen,
When brightly shines the prosperous day,
Be thoughts of thee a cloudy screen,
To temper the deceitful ray.

And oh! when gathers on our path,
In shade and storm, the frequent night,
Be thou, long-suffering, slow to wrath,
A burning and a shining light.

SIR WALTER SCOTT.

GOD led the children of Israel through the wilderness of the Red Sea, and they went up out of Egypt.

And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud, to lead them by the way; and by night in a pillar of fire: to give them light to go by day and night.

But the Egyptians pursued them, and overtook them encamping by the sea; and the children of Israel were sore afraid. And Moses said, Fear not, the Lord shall fight for you.

And the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind, and the waters were divided. And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon dry ground; and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand and on their left.

And the Egyptians went in after them; and the waters returned, and covered all the host of Pharaoh.

Thus the Lord saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians. — *Ex.* xiii., xiv.

December 16.

TO-DAY A SOLEMN STILLNESS.

TO-DAY a solemn stillness
Is resting far and near;
And so may we with gladness
God's holy day revere.

The Sabbath bells are ringing,
So cheerful and so clear,
They call to prayer and singing,
And God's good word to hear.

Who would not heed the message,
God sends us from above?
Who would not seek his blessing,
His mercy and his love?

And as the eastern sages
Were guided by a star,
So faith would lead us heavenward,
Where God and angels are.

FROM THE GERMAN.

You cannot take charge of other people's characters, consciences, or manners; you are bound to take charge of your own. To form, improve, and perfect your own characters is the work for your life-time.

What are manners? Are they not the expression of our disposition and affections? Are they not the outward signs of the qualities of your minds and hearts?

Does not a vain, selfish boy talk loud and long, press before others, help himself first, jostle his neighbor, and tread on his toes? Does not a boy of a modest character and kind disposition stand back till others are served? and does he not speak in a proper tone? If he

be cross, is not his manner churlish? If he be warm-hearted, is he not cordial in his manners? The manner is but the beautiful outside of the rich fruit under it — the bloom of the peach.

There is one quality of mind which more than all others gives the right tone, modification, and expression to manner. This is one of the highest qualities with which man is endowed. It is this quality which leads him to build temples to God, and to worship him everywhere amid his works. It was this sentiment which inspired and fills the Psalms of David. It pervades the highest poetry. It led the polished Greeks, when they had filled their land with temples to their divinities, to build an altar "to the Unknown God." It is this which leads man to perceive and feel superiority in his fellow-creatures, whether it be in mind or heart, learning or manners, — or anything else that marks worth.

I confess, reluctantly, that our young people are said to be deficient in this quality or sentiment. Foreigners who come among us invariably remark this, and we who live among you, observe and painfully feel it.

The want of this quality leaves you without one of the most delightful feelings, and highest graces. Without it you are destitute of the loveliest charm of childhood, and if you continue without it, your existence will lose its highest elevation, you will be without the main-spring of all the nobler sentiments. What is it? Reverence.

Reverence is implanted by the Deity in human nature, but it may be uprooted, or die away from neglect. To you is committed the care and responsibility of its cultivation. Religious reverence will lead you to worship God, — to think of his infinite greatness and unmeasured love with a holy feeling. It will prevent your speaking his name profanely. It will lead you to respect everything connected with religion.

If you have this quality in perfection, you will look

with admiration on all the beautiful works of God, and on the great works of man. You will love to read of great actions and good deeds. Your heart will glow, when you see any one overcoming an evil appetite, or conquering a bad passion, or performing a good action.

You will respect your parents, your teacher, and your elders ; you will do more than this, — you will “honor all men,” for you will feel that every human being has that in him which, though he may neglect and wrong it, others may not, — an immortal soul.



December 17.

THE Lord is nigh to all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth. — *Ps. cxlv. 18.*

PRAYER makes the darkened clouds withdraw ;
Prayer climbs the ladder Jacob saw,
Give exercise to faith and love,
Brings every blessing from above.

Have you no words ? Ah, think again ;
Words flow apace when you complain,
And fill a fellow-creature's ear
With the sad tale of all your care.

Were half the breath thus vainly spent,
To heaven in supplication sent,
Our cheerful song would oftener be,
“Hear what the Lord hath done for me.”

COWPER.

WHAT says the Psalmist ? “When my heart is vexed I will complain” — to whom ? Not of God, but — “to God.”

December 18.

LORD, I AM THINE.

LORD of my life, whose tender care
Hath led me on till now,
Here lowly at the hour of prayer
Before thy throne I bow :
I bless thy gracious hand, and pray
Forgiveness for another day.

With prayer my humble praise I bring
For mercies day by day :
Lord, teach my heart thy love to see ;
Lord, teach me how to pray !
All that I have, I am, to thee
I offer through eternity.

ONE ought not to fear to approach God with a child-like love. Speak to him in prayer of all your wants, all your troubles ; speak even of the disrelish you sometimes feel for his service. You cannot speak too freely or too trustfully to him. He loves the simple and lowly ; it is with them that he converses. If you are of the number, lay aside all your lofty ideas, open your heart to him, and tell him everything. After thus speaking to God, listen to him that he may impress upon you such virtues as shall please him. Let all within you be silent and listen to him, and you will hear his voice in the depth of your soul.

FÉNELON.

December 19.

GOD who giveth us richly all things to enjoy. — 1 *Tim.*
vi. 17.

A LITTLE of thy merriment
Of thy sparkling, light content,
Give me, my cheerful brook,
That I may still be full of glee
And gladsomeness, where'er I be,
Though fickle fate hath prisoned me
In some neglected nook.

LOWELL.

WONDROUS is the strength of cheerfulness ; altogether past calculation its powers of endurance. Efforts to be permanently useful must be uniformly joyous : a spirit all sunshine, graceful from very gladness, beautiful because bright.

CARLYLE.

THE heart that makes its own delight makes also a delight for others.

MAKE the right seem pleasant ; we cannot know it unless we love it, nor lead others to it unless we make it attractive.



December 20.

AND now men see not the bright light which is in the clouds. — *Job xxxvii.* 21.

'T IS sorrow builds the shining ladder up
Whose golden rounds are our calamities,
Whereon our firm feet planting nearer God
The spirit climbs, and hath its eyes unsealed.

True is it that Death's face seems stern and cold
When he is sent to summon those we love;
But all God's angels come to us disguised;
Sorrow and sickness, poverty and death,
One after other, lift their frowning masks,
And we behold the Seraph's face beneath
All radiant with the glory and the calm
Of having looked upon the front of God.

LOWELL.

God does not take away the Red Sea, nor the wilderness, nor Jordan; but goes with us through them all, — a cloud by day, a pillar of fire by night. Nothing brings us so near to God as the sense of our spiritual and moral needs.

JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE.

December 21.

EXAGGERATION.

“**W**HATEVER is overstated must at sometime be taken back.”

What is exaggeration? It is the beginning of untruthfulness. Through the desire to please or amuse others, we are tempted to give more animation and add interest to a story by exaggerating the facts.

We are thus led, almost insensibly, to little and apparently harmless falsehoods.

But a habit of this kind renders one incapable of reporting correctly any trivial circumstance, and weakens the instinct of truthfulness.

The remedy is —

First: Study accuracy both in observation and expression.

Join the small number of people who can *see* things as they *are* and report them as they see them.

Exactness of speech adds weight to one's words, and implies a certain dignity of character, which will command general respect.

Second : If you use words without regard to their exact meaning, you soon become incapable of distinguishing that exact meaning.

If you use strong expressions when they are not really needed, they lose their strength, and when the proper time comes for their use, they are meaningless. If you call candy and ice-cream "splendid," and "lovely," and "gorgeous," and "magnificent," what words have you left for the sunset?

Third : Be careful in the use of superlatives, and do not try to intensify all your adjectives by the word *very*. Then you will not feel it necessary to express some unusually strong feeling by *swearing*. Try to be moderate in both speech and action. Vehemence is out of place in good society.

C. W. AMES.

YOUR sentence gains for every "very" you can cancel. Beware of the words "intense" and "exquisite;" to very few people would the occasion for the word "intense" come in a lifetime.

EMERSON.

December 22.

AND I will bring them by a way that they knew not ;
I will lead them in paths that they have not known ;
I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them. — *Isa.* xlii. 16.

THE PILGRIM FATHERS.

THE breaking waves dashed high
On a stern and rock-bound coast,
And the woods against a stormy sky
Their giant branches tossed ;
And the heavy night hung dark,
The hills and waters o'er,
When a band of exiles moored their bark
On the wild New England shore.

Not as the conqueror comes,
They, the true-hearted, came ;
Not with the roll of stirring drums,
And the trump that sings of fame ;
Not as the flying come,
In silence and in fear :
They shook the depths of the desert's gloom
With their hymns of lofty cheer.

Amidst the storm they sang :
And the stars heard, and the sea ;
And the sounding aisles of the dim woods rang
To the anthem of the free.
The ocean eagle soared
From his nest by the white waves' foam,
And the rocking pines of the forest roared :
This was their welcome home !

What sought they thus afar ?
Bright jewels of the mine ?
The wealth of seas, the spoils of war ?
They sought a faith's pure shrine !
Ay, call it holy ground, —
The soil where first they trod :
They have left unstained what there they found, —
Freedom to worship God.

MRS. HEMANS.

"LET it never be forgotten," said one of the early Puritan preachers, "that our New England was originally

a plantation of religion, and not a plantation of trade. And if there be a man among you who counts religion as *twelve*, and the world as *thirteen*, let such a one remember that he hath neither the spirit of a true New England man, nor yet of a sincere Christian."

Quoted by T. W. HIGGINSON.



December 23.

HOLY Father, thou hast taught me
I should live to thee alone;
Year by year thy hand hath brought me
On through dangers oft unknown.
When I wandered, thou hast found me;
When I doubted, sent me light;
Still thine arm has been around me,
All my paths were in thy sight.

In the world will foes assail me,
Craftier, stronger far than I;
And the strife may never fail me,
Well I know, before I die.
Therefore, Lord, I come, believing
Thou canst give the power I need;
Through the prayer of faith receiving
Strength, the Spirit's strength indeed.

I would trust in thy protecting,
Wholly rest upon thine arm,
Follow wholly thy directing,
Thou mine only guard from harm.
Keep me from mine own undoing,
Help me turn to thee when tried,
Still my footsteps, Father, viewing,
Keep me ever at thy side.

FOR he clave to the Lord and departed not from following him, but kept his commandments, which the Lord commanded Moses. And the Lord was with him and he prospered whithersoever he went.—2 *Kings* xviii. 6, 7.

CHILDREN'S CREED.—*continued.*

You should be kind and loving to one another, for then you will be loving toward God, because you will be doing that which he most desires. Try not to vex or tease your smaller brothers or sisters; try to help them when they are in difficulty; do not be jealous of them; do not tell stories against them; above all, do not lead them into mischief, because the worst harm you can do a young child is to tempt him to do wrong. If he once begins you cannot stop him, and many years afterward he will remember with bitter grief and indignation that you were the first to lead him astray into evil ways. A lie that is told, a deceit that is practised, a bad word that is heard, a bad act that is lightly spoken of, often enters into the mind of a young child, and remains there all his life. There is a proverb which says, "Little pitchers have long ears," and it means that little children often hear more than you think they hear, and keep in their memory things which you think they must have forgotten. It is the same, in other words, as a Latin proverb which those boys who understand Latin will translate for themselves: *Maxima debetur pueris reverentia.*

The greatest reverence, the greatest fear should restrain us from doing anything by false, or vulgar, or foolish words to spoil the conscience, or the taste, or the character of a little boy. You know what you mean by a spoiled picture, or a spoiled book,—the colors are slurred, the leaves are rumped. That is what we mean by a child whose character is spoiled or stained by

the foolish indulgence or neglect of those about him. Parents, try not to spoil your children. Children, try not to spoil one another, and take care not to be spoiled yourselves. That is one of the most important ways of fulfilling Saint John's precept, "Little children, love" — do not spoil — "one another."

—◆— A. P. STANLEY.

December 24.

HOW beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace. — *Isaiah* lii. 7.

CALM on the listening ear of night,
Come heaven's melodious strains,
Where wild Judea stretches far
Her silver-mantled plains.

Celestial choirs, from courts above,
Shed sacred glories there;
And angels, with their sparkling lyres,
Make music on the air.

The answering hills of Palestine
Send back the glad reply,
And greet from all their holy heights
The day-spring from on high.

O'er the blue depths of Galilee,
There comes a holier calm;
And Sharon waves, in solemn praise,
Her silent groves of palm.

"Glory to God," the sounding skies
Loud with their anthems ring;
"Peace to the earth, good-will to men,
From heaven's Eternal King!"

Light on thy hills, Jerusalem!
The Saviour now is born;
And bright on Bethlehem's joyous plains
Breaks the first Christmas morn.

E. H. SEARS.

December 25.

AND she brought forth her first born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And lo! the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you; ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good-will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

And they came with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them. — *Luke ii. 7-16, 20.*

WHILE shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.

"Fear not," said he, — for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind, —
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind.

"To you in David's town, this day,
Is born of David's line,
The Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
And this shall be the sign:

"The heavenly babe you there shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
And in a manger laid."

Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God, and thus
Addressed their joyful song:

"All glory be to God on high,
And to the earth be peace!
Good-will henceforth from heaven to men
Begin and never cease."

PATRICK,

December 26.

IT was the winter wild,
While the heaven-born child
All meanly wrapped in the rude manger lies;
Nature in awe to him
Hath doff't her gaudy trim
With her great Master so to sympathize.

No war or battle's sound
Was heard the world around:
The idle spear and shield were high up hung,
The hooked chariot stood
Unstained with hostile blood,
The trumpet spake not to the armed throng,
And kings sat still with awful eye,
As if they surely knew their sovereign Lord was by.

But peaceful was the night,
Wherein the Prince of light
His reign of peace upon the earth began;
The winds with wonder whist
Smoothly the waters kist,
Whispering new joys to the mild ocean,
Who now had quite forgot to rave,
While birds of calm sit brooding on the charmèd wave.

The stars with deep amaze
Stand fixed in steadfast gaze,
Bending one way their precious influence,
And will not take their flight,
For all the morning light,
Or Lucifer that often warned them thence;
But in their glimmering orbs did glow
Until their Lord himself bespake, and bid them go.

MILTON.

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. And when they were told to go to Bethlehem they departed; and, lo, the star which they saw in the east went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary, his mother, and fell

down and worshipped him ; and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts : gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. — *Matt.* ii. 1, 2, 9-11.

December 27.

CHRISTMAS HYMN.

FROM heaven above to earth I come,
To bear good news to every home ;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,
Whereof I now will say and sing : —

To you, this night, is born a child
Of Mary, chosen mother mild ;
This little child of lowly birth
Shall be the joy of all your earth.

He brings those blessings long ago
Prepared by God for all below ;
Henceforth his kingdom open stands
To you, as to the angel bands.

Now let us all, with gladsome cheer,
Follow the shepherds, and draw near
To see this wondrous gift of God,
Who hath his only Son bestowed.

Give heed, my heart, lift up thine eyes !
Who is it in yon manger lies ?
Who is this child so young and fair ?
The blessed Christ-child lieth there.

Ah, dearest Jesus, holy child,
Make thee a bed, soft, undefiled,
Within my heart, that it may be
A quiet chamber kept for thee.

My heart for very joy doth leap,
My lips no more can silence keep;
I too must sing with joyful tongue,
That sweetest ancient cradle-song:—

Glory to God in highest heaven,
Who unto man his Son hath given;
While angels sing with pious mirth,
A glad New Year to all the earth.

MARTIN LUTHER.

WHILE Easter gives hope of an immortal life, Christmas brings to us the hope of a better life in this world.

We also are partakers of the divine nature. What he received, he received that he might impart it to his brethren.

We are led by him to his Father and our Father, to his God and our God; we join in the angels' song, Glory to God in the highest; and on earth, peace, good-will to men.

JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE.



December 28.

BUT he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. — *Matt.* xxiii. 11.

AND ye shall succor men;
'T is nobleness to serve;
Help them who cannot help again;
Beware from right to swerve.

I cause from every creature
His proper good to flow ;
As much as he is and doeth,
So much shall he bestow.

EMERSON'S BOSTON HYMN.

I GAVE thee wealth and power,
And the poor around thee spread ;
Where are the sheep and lambs of mine
That thou hast reared and fed ?

I gave thee wit and eloquence
Thy brethren to persuade ;
Where are the thousands by thy word
More wise and holy made ?

HYMNS OF THE AGES.

NOTHING is so indicative of deepest culture as a tender consideration of the ignorant.

EMERSON.

December 29.

BY this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another. — *John* xiii. 35.

ONE thing that represses the utterances of love is the shyness of the Anglo-Saxon blood.

There is a powerlessness of utterance in our blood that we should fight against, and struggle outward toward expression. We can educate ourselves to it, if we know and feel the necessity ; we can make it a Christian duty, not only to love, but to be loving, — not only to be true

friends, but to show ourselves friendly. We can make ourselves say the kind things that rise in our hearts and tremble back on our lips, — do the gentle and helpful deeds which we long to do and shrink back from ; and, little by little, it will grow easier, — the love spoken will bring the answer of love, — the kind deed will bring back a kind deed in return.

HARRIET BEECHER STOWE.

LET love flow out upon all around you, and what could harm you? How many a knot of misunderstanding would be untied by one word spoken in simple and confiding truth of heart ! How many a solitary place would be made glad if love were spoken ; and how many a dark dwelling would be filled with light !

THE music that can deepest reach
And cure all ills is cordial speech.

EMERSON.



December 30.

PUT them in mind to speak evil of no man. —
Titus iii. 1, 2.

THE words of a wise man's mouth are gracious. —
Eccles. x. 12.

THREE RULES which bring comfort, peace of mind, and honor : —

First : In speaking of persons, if you cannot say a pleasant word, say nothing.

Second : Do not say of any one what you would be unwilling to have him overhear.

Third : Never repeat unkind words or stories that you would be sorry to have said about yourself.

The first rule will make you a comfortable friend to others,—for how much pleasanter it is to be with one who never has an ill-natured word to say than with one who is always detecting flaws in others, and opening your eyes to defects you have not noticed in those you love and admire, or in new friends whom you would enjoy.

The second will make you comfortable yourself. If you never say anything against people, you will save yourself from the shame of having your thoughtless criticisms repeated to them, and will have a conscience clear of all the evils that arise from cruel or inconsiderate words, and will have and deserve peace of mind.

It is certain that one who accurately obeys these rules is cultivating a spirit not only of mercy, but of honor, the “finest sense of justice that the human mind can frame ;” and those who have honor on this point will not lack it in others.

Try not to express or even form in words in your mind your sense of dislike to any one, or your knowledge of your friend's faults, for putting a thought in words impresses it more deeply on the mind. But if, as a boy said, “We cannot help seeing faults, — the use we should make of them should be to warn us to cure our own.”

In judging and criticising the characters, actions, and mistakes of others, and their weakness in yielding to temptations that do not try us, let us take to heart the lesson Jesus taught,—when a woman was brought to him accused of a crime, and the people told him the law of Moses commanded that a person so sinning should be stoned. They hoped that he, with his usual sympathy with suffering, would speak against the law, for they wished to find something to accuse him of before the rulers. Jesus at first made no answer ; but when they

repeated, " 'What sayest thou?' he said, 'He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.' And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out, one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.

"When Jesus saw none but the woman, he said unto her, 'Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee?' She said, 'No man, Lord.' And Jesus said unto her, 'Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.'"

December 31.

BE renewed in the spirit of your mind. — *Eph.* iv. 23.

THIS year is just going away, —
The moments are finishing fast;
My heart, have you nothing to say,
Concerning the time that is past?
Now, while in my chamber alone,
Where God will be present to hear,
I'll try to remember and own
The faults I've committed this year.

O Lord, I'm ashamed to confess
How often I've broken thy day;
Perhaps I have thought of my dress,
Or wasted the moments in play;
And when the good minister tried
To make little children attend,
I was thinking of something beside,
Or wishing the sermon would end.

How often I rose from my bed,
And did not remember my prayer ;
Or if a few words I have said,
My thoughts have been going elsewhere ;
Ill-temper, and passion, and pride,
Have grieved my dear parents and thee ;
And seldom I've heartily tried
Obedient and gentle to be !

But, Lord, thou already hast known
Much more of my folly than I ;
There is not a fault I can own,
Too little for God to descry ;
Yet hear me, and help me to feel
How wicked and weak I must be ;
And let me not try to conceal
The least of my follies from thee.

This year is just going away,
The moments are finishing fast ;
Look down in thy mercy, I pray,
To pardon the time that is past ;
And as soon as another begins,
So help me to walk in thy fear,
That I may not with follies and sins
Disfigure and waste a new year.

JANE TAYLOR.

To those who acquire the habit of giving comfort, cheerfulness, strength, wherever they go, much is given in return, — contentment, trust in God, confidence in their fellow-men, sweet hopes, peaceful memories.

JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE.

BROUGHT safely by His hand thus far,
How canst thou now give place to fear ?
What canst thou want if He provide,
Or lose thy way with such a guide ?

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